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AAEM Applauds FTC Decision to Ban Non-Compete Clauses in Healthcare

Milwaukee, WI, April 24, 2024 — The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) applauds a significant milestone in healthcare reform as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announces its decision to ban non-compete clauses in the healthcare sector. This ruling marks a major victory for emergency medicine physicians across the nation, liberating them from restrictive contracts that have long impeded their professional freedom.

The FTC's groundbreaking decision was influenced by extensive advocacy efforts by AAEM, highlighted by a critical appearance by Dr. Jonathan S. Jones, President of AAEM, at the FTC's "Private Equity Healthcare Workshop" in March 2024. Dr. Jones's powerful testimony illustrated the adverse effects of non-compete clauses on both patient care and physician autonomy, strongly advocating for necessary reforms to remove barriers that prevent emergency medicine physicians from serving the community effectively.

Dr. Jones remarked, "This decision is a tremendous win for the emergency medicine community and vindicates the relentless efforts of many who have fought to prioritize patient care over corporate constraints. By eliminating non-compete clauses, we empower physicians to make career decisions that best serve their patients and personal aspirations without the fear of legal repercussions."

The FTC's ruling is poised to significantly enhance job mobility for physicians, fostering greater flexibility and creating new opportunities within the healthcare industry. It establishes a crucial precedent for prioritizing patient access to quality care, ensuring that physicians can freely practice in settings that align best with their expertise and ethical values.

AAEM has been a longstanding advocate against restrictive practices that stifle the professional growth and freedom of emergency medicine physicians. Even when other medical societies have viewed and even supported non-competes as a "private business matter," AAEM has never wavered in its commitment to eliminating these nefarious clauses to help practicing emergency physicians and their patients. Today's victory is not just a win against non-compete clauses but an additional step toward reforming healthcare practices to create a more equitable and effective system.

Discover AAEM's long-standing opposition to restrictive workplace practices by reading its [response to the FTC's January 2020 workshop on non-competes](#). Explore the significant changes and benefits for physicians nationwide through a concise [overview of the FTC's new rule](#). Learn more about AAEM's ongoing advocacy efforts and how you can support or become involved by visiting [the AAEM website](#).

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The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) is the specialty society of emergency medicine and the champion of the emergency physician. AAEM was established in 1993 to promote fair and equitable practice environments necessary to allow emergency physicians to deliver the highest quality of patient care. Our guiding values are embodied in our [mission and vision statements](#).