

**Kristina D. Roegner**  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District



**Sponsor Testimony**  
Senate Bill 28  
Ohio Senate Health Committee  
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Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 28, which would add Ohio to the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact. The Physician Assistant Licensure Compact is an interstate compact which “seeks to enhance the portability of a license to practice as a PA while safeguarding the safety of patients”<sup>1</sup>.

“The PA Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact for physician assistants (PAs). Interstate compacts are a constitutionally authorized, legally binding, legislatively enacted contract among participating states.

States joining the compact agree to recognize a valid, unencumbered license issued by another compact member state via a compact privilege. Licensed PAs utilizing the compact can obtain a privilege in each compact member state where they want to practice. PAs using a compact privilege to practice in another state must adhere to laws and regulations of practice in that state and are under the jurisdiction of the state’s regulatory board in which they are practicing.”<sup>2</sup>

The Physician Assistant Licensure Compact is the natural continuation of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, passed unanimously as SB6 in the last General Assembly, which extended similar benefits to physicians. Rather than having to obtain an individual license in every state in which they want to practice, physician assistants will be able to apply for a compact privilege through a streamlined process. The compact privilege authorizes physician assistants to provide medical services, including telehealth, and other licensed activity to a patient located in a particular compact state under that state’s laws and regulations.

The Physician Assistant Compact is still in its formative stage. As of late last year, model legislation was approved by the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as developed by the Council of State Governments (CSG) to establish the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact.<sup>3</sup>

The Physician Assistant Licensure Compact will take effect once seven states have enacted authorizing legislation. Ohio would be among the first states to adopt, leading the way for increased access to care for patients and mobility for physician assistants. As of now, three other states have also introduced the Compact: Rhode Island, Texas, and Utah.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general\\_assembly\\_135/bills/sb28/IN/00/sb28\\_00\\_IN?format=pdf](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/sb28/IN/00/sb28_00_IN?format=pdf) line 16-18

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pacompact.org/about-pa-licensure-compact/>

<sup>3</sup> This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of funding for grant #H1MRH24097.

Physician assistants operate under the supervision of a primary physician. Among other duties, physician assistants examine patients, provide diagnoses, and prescribe medication and other treatments.<sup>4</sup> In 2018, there were approximately 4,430 physician assistants in Ohio.<sup>5</sup> The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that in 2026 there will be 290 annual openings in Ohio and 10,600 nationally<sup>6</sup> for PA's. The PA Licensure Compact will allow for license portability and will significantly decrease the administrative burden of securing licensure in multiple states, thereby helping to relieve this problem.

Ohio licensees will still be required to complete continuing education for the NCCPA<sup>7</sup>. For some states, this is a new requirement that will stand lieu of their current continuing education requirements.

The Commission created by this compact is structured like the commissions of other compacts, enacted in recent years. In addition, this compact allows for Ohio, and a majority of participating states to revise the Compact's language if the member states find a compact provision to be more burdensome than helpful to its founding purposes.

In closing, passage of Senate Bill 28 puts Ohio at the forefront of establishing the Physician Assistant Compact. In addition to expanding patient access to medical professionals, the Compact will alleviate burdens for military families by allowing active-duty military personnel and their spouses to obtain a compact privilege based on having an unrestricted license in good standing from a participating state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm#tab-2>

<sup>5</sup> <https://healthcaredegreeseach.com/careers/physician-assistants/ohio-us/> ; taken from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nccpa.net/maintain-certification/continuing-medical-education/>