



**SB 28 Legislative Testimony (Interested Party)
Ohio Senate Health Committee**

March 15, 2023

Chair Huffman and Senate Health Committee Members:

The Council of State Governments (CSG) is a nonpartisan membership organization that serves the three branches of state governments. The CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts is a technical assistance provider for states on interstate compacts. CSG has provided technical assistance to states during the development of the PA Licensure Compact (PA Compact).

The PA Compact is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, allowing physician assistants licensed in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without the need for multiple licenses. Like other interstate licensure compacts, the PA Compact is designed to improve access to services, enhance mobility for practitioners, support relocating military spouses, improve continuity of care, and ensure cooperation among compact member states.

The PA Compact reflects how states currently license PAs. For example, to participate in the compact, PAs must hold an unrestricted license, have no felony or misdemeanor convictions, have graduated from an accredited PA program, and hold current National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants certification. PAs who meet the uniform requirements are permitted to quickly obtain a privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a PA license in another state.

The PA Compact has no impact on a state's laws and regulations for PA practice and leaves state-specific licensure requirements in place. For example, any collaboration, supervision or controlled substance prescription authority requirements Ohio necessitates for practice would have to be met by a PA before they are able to exercise a privilege to practice.

The compact creates a shared interstate licensure data system, allowing for near-instant verification of licensure status. Through the data system, a privilege to practice, or the authorization to practice in another compact member state, can be obtained in a matter of minutes. The data system also enhances public protection by ensuring that member states share investigative and disciplinary information with one another.



The PA Compact is newly available for states in 2023 and is one of 15 available interstate licensure compacts. Ohio is currently a member of six licensure compacts, including the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, Counseling Compact, Nurse Licensure Compact, Occupational Therapy Compact, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact and Physical Therapy Compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver informational testimony for the committee. CSG is available to assist with any questions regarding the PA Compact or interstate compact law.

Respectfully,

Carl Sims

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