



January 27, 2021
Senate Health Committee
Senate Bill 6 - Proponent

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and all members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive comments on Senate Bill 6. On behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) that represents over 1,500 emergency physicians across the State, we support Ohio entering the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Ohio would benefit from joining the 29 other states who have already passed their enabling legislation to enter the Compact. The compact is crafted so that each state retains general oversight of their licensees and who practice in Ohio. But it allows for greater portability for physicians who might want to practice and be licensed in more than one state. Ohio border states such as Kentucky, West Virginia and Michigan have already joined the Compact, so it makes sense that Ohio does as well.

We saw during the pandemic that some areas of the country had a heightened need for physicians at the center of the crisis. The compact would give Ohio physicians additional opportunity to assist if needed, and attract additional capacity should we need it, if we are a member of the compact. Physicians across the country adhere to the highest of standards. We receive our medical specialty board certifications from national organizations, so it makes sense to have a national compact with some oversight in multi-state licensed physicians.

We certainly understand why there might have been some hesitation to join the compact at its inception. However, the compact structure is now well established and working as intended for member states, so Ohio ACEP believes it is the right time for Ohio to join. We appreciate the committee's attention to this issue and we are happy to be supportive of the effort.

Sincerely,
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