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President – Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons
Proponent – Senate Bill 6

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 6. I believe that passage of this legislation will benefit Ohio's surgeons as well as patients in need of surgical care.

This legislation, sponsored by State Senator Roegner, would enter Ohio into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This would afford Ohio physicians the opportunity to obtain a license to practice in other compact member states in an expedited manner. Currently, nearly thirty states have joined the compact and many more have enacted or will enact legislation to join this year. Notably, with the exception of Indiana, every state that borders Ohio is already participating in the compact.

In addition to allowing Ohio's surgeons to practice in other states, membership in the compact would allow surgeons in compact states to obtain an expedited license in Ohio. This would help address workforce shortages and allow for surgeons with specialized expertise to provide care to Ohio patients. Additionally, the ability to practice in other compact states could provide some relief to surgeons in active military service.

Fellows of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Surgeons support Ohio's membership in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and we hope that the committee will quickly advance the measure. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this issue.