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The Honorable Steve Huffman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
Ohio Senate

Dear Chairman Huffman,

On behalf of our clients, the Ohio Emergency Physician Alliance and our 70 medical departments in Ohio, we would like to express our strong support of Senate Bill 6 which was jointly sponsored by you and Senator Kristina Roegner last week. We believe it will be a great relief for our over 325 physicians practicing in the state of Ohio to participate in Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Currently, for an Ohio physician to become licensed to practice in another state, it is a very cumbersome application process, involving securing a voluminous number of records and documents. Depending on the age of the individual seeking additional state licensure, many of the records may still be paper-based and very hard to obtain. This can easily become a barrier for physicians to practice in other states, resulting in fewer high quality health care options for its citizens.

As an alliance of emergency medical service providers which practice in a number of states nationwide, Senate Bill 6 is particularly valuable to improving patient care as well as reducing operating expenses. To greatly decrease the barriers in multi-state practice, it would help us to more easily practice emergency medicine particularly in Ohio's under served communities. It would allow our physicians a greater ability to practice in-person across state lines as well as by telehealth.

Participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a proven and successful method of improving health care for the people of Ohio, as well as those from outside our state. It represents very little burden on the State Medical Board in exchange for these efficiencies.

It is important to note that the Board would maintain its full autonomy in issuing an Ohio license to an out of state physician, rather than simply recognizing a license issued by another state.

We strongly believe that passage of Senate Bill 6 will greatly improve our operating efficiency and reduce our expenses. However, the most important reason to pass this measure, is that it will greatly increase medical care opportunities for the people of Ohio. Therefore, we encourage passage of Senate Bill 6 by the Ohio General Assembly.

Best regards,
Brooke A. Cheney