

To: Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee

Fr: Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: January 7, 2021

Re: SB 6

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we write today to express our support for Senate Bill 6. This legislation would add Ohio to the list of 29 other states who have already passed a bill in their own state legislatures which allows their state to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). Notably, our border states of Michigan, Kentucky, and West Virginia are among those which have already joined the Compact.

The IMLC creates an easier and more efficient pathway for physicians who wish to practice medicine and be licensed in multiple states, and was designed to facilitate growth in telemedicine utilization in a way that preserves regulation of the practice of medicine by individual states. OSMA is a strong advocate for telehealth access, particularly as a means to expand health care delivery to underserved patient populations. Over the course of the past year, we saw how the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly accelerated growth in use of telehealth services across the country, and also created areas of critical need in certain hotspots as the virus spread in certain cities or regions.

OSMA believes that with time, the Compact's structure has shown itself to work as intended in those states already participating. Our association supports this legislation as Ohio being a part of the IMLC will give our physicians increased opportunity to assist patients in need, while remaining consistent with the current standard of care and under the oversight of our state regulatory bodies.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on SB 6, and as always, we appreciate the opportunity to be a meaningful contributor to the legislative process. Please feel free to reach out to us should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.