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Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 6

Ohio Senate Health Committee

January 27, 2021

Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 6, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.” This agreement between member states aims to provide an expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states. This legislation is a reintroduction of SB364 from the previous General Assembly.

“The mission of the Compact is to increase access to health care – particularly for patients in underserved or rural areas. The Compact makes it possible to extend the reach of physicians, improve access to medical specialists, and leverage the use of new medical technologies, such as telemedicine. While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the Compact also strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information”¹

There are currently twenty-nine “member” states in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, including our neighbors: Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia & Pennsylvania. An additional four more, including Ohio, have introduced legislation to join the compact

¹ <https://www.imlcc.org/information-for-states/>

Physicians apply (\$700 nonrefundable application fee) and must qualify to participate in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. To qualify for Compact participation, physicians must²:

- Hold a full, unrestricted medical license in a Compact member-state that can serve as a State of Principal License (SPL), and meet the SPL requirements.
- Have graduated from an accredited medical school, or a school listed in the International Medical Education Directory
- Have successfully completed ACGME- or AOA-accredited graduate medical education
- Passed each component of the USMLE, COMLEX-USA, or equivalent in no more than three attempts for each component
- Hold a current specialty certification or time-unlimited certification by an ABMS or AOABOS board

In addition, physicians must NOT have:

- any history of disciplinary actions toward their medical license
- any criminal history
- any history of controlled substance actions toward their medical license
- any current investigations pending

The State of Principal License (SPL) reviews the application, qualifications and conducts a criminal background check, and if approved the physician is granted the formal “Letter of Qualification” and the Physician may participate in the Compact.

Through the Compact, the Physician selects the states where he or she wishes to be licensed and upon receipt of the Letter of Qualification, the member states then issue a license for the physician. The Compact collects and remits fees to the Boards of the member states.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is governed by the Interstate Medical Licensure Commission comprised of two representatives from each member state.

To become a member state, the state’s legislature must pass a bill containing consistent language with the other member states authorizing the state to join.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

² <https://www.imlcc.org/information-for-states/>