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Proponent Testimony, Ohio Senate Bill 6 (SB 6)
Ohio Senate Health Committee
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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 6.

Summa Health is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery systems within the state of Ohio. Formed in 1989 by the merger of Akron City and St. Thomas Hospitals, the nonprofit system now encompasses a network of four hospitals, eight community-based health centers, a health insurance entity, a multi-specialty medical group practice, a research and medical education enterprise, and a foundation.

The health system employs more than six hundred physicians and advanced practice providers.

Summa is supportive of the Senate Bill 6 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) proposal because it would provide our system with an ability to access qualified talent from other states to help provide care and services to our northeast Ohio patient and member population. The compact model will help Summa Health better access specialty and subspecialty caregiver talent. This access is critically important during pandemic and normal times.

We anticipate the interstate model being of equal benefit to Ohio because it would afford providers with an opportunity to take advantage of employment opportunities in IMLC states when their local (home state) systems encounter low patient volume and/or utilization periods.

Summa applauds Senator Roegner and Senator Huffman for partnering with the provider community to draft legislation that would strengthen the healthcare workforce to best deliver accessible and quality services to Ohio patients.

We welcome ongoing conversations about the ILMC model and how it will promote continuity of patient care. We do want to preserve our providers' ability to provide care to established patients when they travel/vacation, snowbird, etc.

We appreciate the committee considering our testimony. We support the committee advancing Senate Bill 6 through the legislative process.