

February 23, 2021

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 6.

UC Health is an integrated academic health system serving the Greater Cincinnati region. In partnership with the University of Cincinnati, UC Health combines clinical expertise and compassion with research and teaching. As the region's academic health care system, patients travel to UC Health for subspecialized, world-class care only we can provide. We are innovators, relentless in our pursuit of the best in medicine and able to care for the most complex and critically ill patients. We hold the highest standard of patient care, clinical research and medical education.

SB 6 is comprised of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This legislation would streamline the licensure process for physicians who practice and reside in compact states. This compact ensures the State Medical Board retains full authority over the practice of medicine in the state of Ohio, and it alleviates many of the administrative burdens faced by physicians who wish to practice in other compact member states. Importantly, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is not a new license; each state board still provides medical licenses to the physicians who apply for an expedited license through this compact.

Twenty-nine other states are current members of the compact, including our neighbor states of West Virginia and Kentucky. By Ohio joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, our physicians would be able to deliver the world class care provided at UC Health to out-of-state patients. This health care access would be greatly expanded by eliminating the travel barrier that currently exists through the expansion of telehealth services in member states.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact could also enhance the quality of care offered to Ohio patients. UC Health employs many of the best and brightest specialty and subspecialty physicians in the country. By joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, physicians practicing in other compact states could seamlessly transition into working at UC Health through the expedited licensure process without the hassle of the current administrative burden delaying their ability to deliver health care to Ohio patients.

SB 6 also includes many safeguards to ensure patient safety. In addition to other requirements for an expedited license, this compact explicitly prohibits physicians from an expedited license if they have had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked, or if they are under active investigation by a licensing agency or law enforcement authority. The oversight by the compact compliments the work of the State Medical Board to ensure quality physicians can take advantage of this streamlined process to expand critical health care services to patients outside of Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 6. Please contact me at any time if I can provide further clarity or information on UC Health's supportive position on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evie Alessandrini".

Evie Alessandrini, MD, MSCE
Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer
UC Health