

**Testimony of Richard L. ('Rick') Masters, J.D.**

**SUPPORT  
Hearing on Senate Bill 345  
Committee on Health  
February 13, 2018**

I am Special Counsel to the National Center for Interstate Compacts for the Council of State Governments and a co-author of the largest compilation of legal authorities on the subject of interstate compacts published by the American Bar Association in 2016 entitled "The Evolving Law and Use of Interstate Compacts." I also served as one of the primary drafters of the model compact legislation on which the proposed statute is based.

The purpose of this proposed interstate compact is to incentivize the finding of cures to certain diseases by an award prizes for curing diseases.

The compact becomes effective and binding upon enactment into law by two states. It provides that upon enactment by six states, the governing Solemn Covenant of States Commission ("Commission") is established and the Compact becomes binding and effective as to any other state that enacts it into law. The Compact grants the Commission the power to review treatments for the cure of diseases specified by the Commission, to award prizes for successful cures, and to make treatments widely available for use.

The Compact contains the customary indicia of an interstate compact in that it creates contractual obligations among the compacting states, provides for uniformity and compliance which can be enforced by the governing structure. It further provides for the establishment of rules relating to the funding process but does not purport to pledge the credit of the member states without their consent. It also provides for the withdrawal from the compact by repealing the compact statute.

Since the purpose of the compact is to award financial incentives from the states to those involved in finding cures for chronic disease which is of benefit to the citizens of each state it appears to be involved in providing for the public welfare in a manner not requiring the consent of Congress.