



September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Davis, Chairman
South Carolina Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee
PO Box 142, 412 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Chairman Davis,

On behalf of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), I would like to express our support for House Bill 3101, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

The FSMB was founded in 1912 and represents all 70 of the state medical and osteopathic regulatory boards in the United States and its territories. The mission of the FSMB is to support its member boards as they fulfill their statutory mandate of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare through the proper licensing, disciplining, and regulation of physicians and other health care professionals.

House Bill 3101 is a new, alternative pathway for expedited medical licensure that will expand access to care, streamline the licensing process for physicians, and facilitate multi-state practice and telemedicine for those physicians that voluntarily choose to participate, benefiting both physicians and patients in South Carolina.

Beginning in 2013, the FSMB worked with its medical boards and special experts to study the feasibility of an interstate compact model to support medical license portability nationwide, while simultaneously ensuring state regulatory authority in the protection of the public. Throughout the two-year drafting process, input and feedback was received and incorporated from a multitude of stakeholders, including state medical boards, provider organizations, patient advocacy organizations, hospitals and health systems, and the telehealth industry.

Since the final model legislation was released in September 2014, 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have formally enacted the Compact. The Compact is supported nationally by the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, and the Council of State Governments.

The Compact created the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC) that is comprised of two representatives from each member state. This Commission, which has been meeting since October 2015, serves as an administrative clearinghouse of licensing and disciplinary information among participating member states and territories. The Commission, like the FSMB, does not have regulatory control over physicians or the practice of medicine. It neither issues licenses nor does it revoke licenses. Its only purpose is to facilitate interstate cooperation and the transfer of information between member states and territories. Regulatory

control remains with the respective medical boards. The Commission implemented a sustainable business model based on user fees. The IMLCC began processing applications on April 6, 2017. As of August 31, 2019, the IMLCC has processed 4,890 applications, resulting in 6,990 medical licenses being issued by Member States.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a testament to the work of medical regulatory boards, physicians, and other key stakeholders to reach consensus in support of a state-based solution that simultaneously expedites state medical license portability while ensuring public protection.

Again, the FSMB fully supports House Bill 3101 and hopes the South Carolina Legislature will look at the long-range benefits that this legislation will have on expanding access to care and streamlining the licensing process for physicians in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Robin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa A. Robin
Chief Advocacy Officer