



February 7, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Chairman
Arkansas State House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee
3418 Highway 160 E
Hermitage, Arkansas 71647

Dear Chairman Wardlaw:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) are writing to encourage you to amend SB 78 to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact). As written, SB 78 requires the Arkansas State Medical Board to perform an analysis of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact) to determine whether the state of Arkansas should participate. The AOA and AOMA believe that the Compact would ease administrative burdens for physicians interested in holding a license to practice medicine in multiple states, while allowing states to maintain control over medical licensure, discipline and patent protection. Therefore, we ask you to amend SB 78 to make Arkansas the 19th state to enact the Compact.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. AOMA is a professional organization that represents over 300 DOs providing patient care in Arkansas.

The AOA and AOMA support the intent of the Compact, as it will allow states to continue to govern activities within their borders, while encouraging states to work together to ease the burdens of holding a license in multiple states. Physician interest in holding licenses in multiple states has grown with the increasing use of telemedicine nationally. This use of technology is one way to improve patient access to care, and potentially address physician workforce shortage issues.

We urge you to amend SB 78 to enact the Compact in Arkansas. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO
President, AOA

Gary S. Edwards, DO, FACOFP
President, AOMA

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw

February 7, 2017

Page 2

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