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December 4, 2017

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Re: AMA Support for District of Columbia B22-0177

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of District of Columbia B22-0177, which would effectuate the District's participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (the Compact) — a licensing option under which qualified physicians seeking to practice in multiple states would be eligible for expedited licensure in all states participating in the Compact. To date, 22 states are participating in the Compact.

The Compact is an agreement between 22 states and the 29 Medical and Osteopathic Boards in those states. Under this agreement, licensed physicians can qualify to practice medicine across state lines within the Compact if they meet the agreed upon eligibility requirements. Approximately 80 percent of physicians meet the criteria for licensure through the Compact.

The AMA joins the Medical Society of the District of Columbia in support of this legislation because it streamlines the process for physicians to obtain licenses in multiple states. This expedited process will help facilitate license portability and allow physicians to practice medicine — including telemedicine — in a safe and accountable manner while protecting patients and expanding access to care. The Compact is also consistent with longstanding AMA policy in support of the state-based system of medical licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783. We look forward to working with you toward enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Medical Society of the District of Columbia