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February 2, 2016

The Honorable Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Chair
Senate Public Affairs Committee
New Mexico Senate
411 S. Capitol Street
Room 300A
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: AMA support for Senate Bill 121

Dear Chair Ortiz y Pino:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of Senate Bill (S.B.) 121, which would clarify the jurisdiction of liability claims resulting from medical treatment across state lines.

The AMA supports this legislation because it ensures that New Mexico's patients will continue to enjoy access to care provided by physicians and other health care professionals in Texas and other neighboring states. Passage of this legislation will also provide transparency for physicians and patients regarding jurisdiction when a patient seeks medical care across state lines. With telemedicine being adopted across the country, the need for such transparency is particularly paramount. S.B. 121 is also consistent with longstanding AMA policy in opposition to forum shopping.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input. Please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: New Mexico Senate Public Affairs Committee
New Mexico Medical Society
Barbara L. McAneny, MD