



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
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January 22, 2018

The Honorable Sharon Cooper
Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Georgia House of Representatives
436 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: AMA Support for House Bill 637

Dear Chair Cooper:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of Georgia House Bill 637, which would effectuate Georgia's participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure 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 AMA supports 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, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

As you know, a physician's impact is felt far beyond the exam room, reaching through local communities, producing a network of jobs and spurring local investment. Each Georgia physician is a significant economic driver, on average creating \$2.3 million in economic output, supporting 13.48 jobs and \$1 million in wages and benefits, and contributing \$81,919 in state and local tax revenues. Participation in the Compact will not only build the physician workforce and ensure patient access to care, but also grow Georgia's state and local economies.

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,

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

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA
Medical Association of Georgia