



January 13, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chairwoman
Maryland State House Health & Government Operations Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians (MAOP), are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 180.

This bill extends the sunset date for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact) from 2022 to 2027. The AOA and the MAOP believe that extending the Compact will continue to 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.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 168,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and medical students (OMS) nationwide. The AOA 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 and osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. The MAOP is a professional medical organization that represents over 1,100 DOs providing patient care in Maryland.

The benefits of the Compact:

- **It allows states to continue to oversee medical regulation and the discipline of physicians. It also encourages states to work together to ease the burdens of holding a license to practice medicine in multiple states.**
- **Physician interest in holding licenses in multiple states has grown with the increasing use of telemedicine nationally, and the Compact will promote appropriate licensure for physicians using this technology to treat patients across state lines.**
- **Since its passage in Maryland in 2018, nearly 200 medical licenses have been issued in the state (as of March 2021), and extending the Compact will help the state**

continue to maximize its physician workforce to ensure that all patients are able to access high-quality care in the future.¹

For these reasons, the AOA and the MAOP urge you to **support HB 180**. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Raine Richards, JD, Senior Director, State Government Affairs at rrichards@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8199.

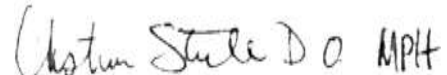
Sincerely,



Joseph A. Giaimo, DO
President, AOA



Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD
CEO, AOA



Christina A. Steele, DO, MPH
President, MAOP

CC: Ernest R. Gelb, DO, President-elect, AOA
Richard R. Thacker, DO, Chair, Department of Governmental Affairs, AOA
Joel A. Kase, DO, Chair, Council on State Health Affairs, AOA
David Pugach, JD, Senior Vice President, Department of Public Policy, AOA
Raine Richards, JD, Senior Director, State Government Affairs, AOA
Stephanie Henley, Executive Director, MAOP

¹ <https://www.imlcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/IMLCC-Data-Study-Supplemental-Information-Year-4-July-2021.pdf>