



February 13, 2026

Chair Heather Bagnall
Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison
House Health Committee
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: APMA Endorsement of Maryland's Bid to Join the Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), which represents the vast majority of the more than 15,000 licensed Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs), also known as podiatrists, across the United States, I write to express our strong support for House Bill 619 and to affirm our partnership with the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) in advancing Maryland's participation in the Interstate Podiatric Licensure Compact (IPMLC, or "Compact").

Health care settings increasingly require the skills of podiatrists because of their critical role in treating lower extremity complications related to diabetes, obesity, and other chronic conditions. Take diabetes as an example: the early-warning signs of diabetes are often found in the manifestation of complications in the lower extremity. As such, podiatrists are frequently the first health care provider to detect, treat, and therefore significantly prevent or reduce complications, such as lower limb amputations.

The IPMLC is a framework designed to expand access to the necessary foot and ankle care that podiatrists provide, while enhancing patient safety and streamlining licensure for qualified podiatrists. It provides a voluntary pathway that allows podiatrists to obtain expedited licenses in multiple states through a single application, while preserving full state authority over licensure, practice acts, and regulation.

APMA strongly believes the Compact aligns with our national priority to build a sustainable and responsive podiatric workforce and improve patient access to care. For Maryland specifically, participation in the Compact would:

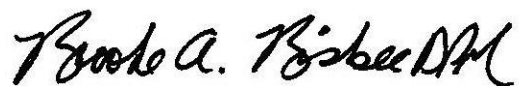
- Ensure patients in rural areas and communities with workforce shortages have access to high-quality foot and ankle care by allowing qualified podiatrists from neighboring states to more readily serve Maryland patients,
- Support telehealth and digital care delivery, enabling podiatrists to serve patients across state lines without unnecessary administrative burdens
- facilitate mobility for military personnel and their spouses, who often face repeated licensure disruptions due to relocation; and
- allow for rapid deployment of podiatric specialists during public health emergencies and natural disasters.

Maryland has already demonstrated leadership by joining other health professional licensure compacts, including the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). Importantly, the Compact maintains similar rigorous standards and strong public protections that these other

compacts do. Only well-qualified, licensed podiatrists are eligible to participate, and the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners retains full oversight of practice within the state. Maryland's participation in the IPMLC is a natural and consistent next step that extends these same benefits to patients who depend on foot and ankle care provided by podiatrists.

APMA is proud to endorse the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association's efforts on this legislation and respectfully urges the Committee to support House Bill 619. Please contact APMA Health Policy and Practice Director, Gail M. Reese, JD, at 301-581-9230 or greese@apma.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke A. Bisbee DPM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooke A. Bisbee, DPM
President