

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Elizabeth Hafey
Assistant Director, State Affairs,
Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

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Johns Hopkins supports **Senate Bill 386 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – Sunset Extension and Reporting**. This bill extends the termination date for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) by five years from September 30, 2022, to September 30, 2027. The IMLC is a voluntary legal agreement among states that streamlines the process for physicians to become licensed in multiple states. Johns Hopkins supported the legislation in 2018 that authorized Maryland to enter the IMLC and we strongly support continued participation in this program.

The flexibilities extended during the COVID-19 pandemic have created greater opportunities to increase access for our patients and expanded our ability to serve patients. Continued participation in the IMLC retains another pathway for physicians to obtain licensure more quickly across the nation to ensure they can provide quality care to their patients.

Additionally, Johns Hopkins has prioritized expanding the use of telehealth for the last several years. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for and provided an opportunity to prove the value of telehealth. Even before the pandemic, there has been increasing recognition that telehealth is a tool to address physician shortages, expand access to numerous types of care including behavioral health services, and improve provider efficiencies.

Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable report on Senate Bill 386 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – Sunset Extension and Reporting**.