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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Senate Bill 386/HB180
Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – Sunset Extension and Reporting

Good Afternoon Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of Health and Government Operations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB386, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – Sunset Extension and Reporting with you. It is the cross-file of HB180 that has already passed out of the House and into the Senate. The two bills are in the same posture.

In 2018 legislation was passed that allowed Maryland to opt-into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, thus the licensure process to allow physicians to become licensed in multiple states was streamlined and expedited. At that time 22 states were part of the Compact now, Maryland is one of 26 states participating, with 4 additional states currently considering the legislation.

The Compact has helped physicians expand the use of tele-medicine, which has proved an essential component in our health-care industry now more than ever as we have seen. Without the Compact, Marylanders, especially in rural areas, can lack the necessary care they need, and often face longer wait times and farther travel to see a physician.

Senate Bill 386 accomplishes two things:

- It extends the termination date of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact streamlining the licensing process for physicians, and facilitated the practice of tele-health.
- It expands upon the annual report the State Board of Physicians is required to submit under § 14–205.1 of the Health Occupations Article to allow for more transparency and accountability in making sure the Compact is accomplishing what it was intended to do.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 386.