



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 386 - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact - Sunset Extension and Reporting**

**Position: *Support***

March 22, 2022

House Health & Government Operations Committee

**MHA Position**

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 386.

MHA and member hospitals strongly supported legislation passed in 2018 to authorize Maryland's inclusion in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and believe our participation should continue. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how participation in IMLC helps improve health care in Maryland.

The IMLC significantly shortens the time it takes for physicians to obtain licensure in multiple states. While an IMLC license does not automatically create licensure portability among participating states, it does create a "fast track" for physicians to practice in multiple states while preserving the state's authority to regulate the practice of medicine.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most states relaxed regulatory barriers to qualified physicians and other medical professionals practicing across state lines. This helped ensure access, whether in person or via telehealth technology, to the critical care patients need during this crisis. MHA and member hospitals are grateful for the reinstatement of these flexibilities during the current COVID-19 surge. We believe the state needs to consider new ways to increase access to health care professionals. The IMLC is a step in that direction.

For these reasons, MHA requests a favorable report on SB 386.

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