



MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

HB619: Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact

Position: Support

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

On behalf of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA), representing over 230 podiatrists licensed in Maryland and the practice of podiatry, I write to support HB 619, which would allow Maryland to join the Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact (IPMLC, or "Compact") and improve patient access to timely foot and ankle care.

Podiatrists play a critical role in Maryland's health care system. They diagnose and treat conditions of the foot and ankle and are often the first providers to identify and manage complications related to diabetes, vascular disease, arthritis, and other chronic conditions. Early foot and ankle care provided by podiatrists helps prevent infections, hospitalizations, and lower limb amputations while reducing overall health care costs.

The Compact would create a voluntary, expedited pathway for qualified podiatrists to become licensed in multiple states, while fully preserving Maryland's authority over licensure, scope of practice, and regulation. The Compact maintains high standards for patient safety and ensures that only well-qualified podiatrists may participate.

Joining the Compact is particularly important given Maryland's workforce realities. Maryland currently has only one in-state podiatric residency program, and many communities, especially rural and border areas, face challenges accessing specialized foot and ankle care. The Compact would allow qualified podiatrists from neighboring states to more easily serve Maryland patients when and where they are needed most. Participation would also support telehealth, reduce administrative burdens that take time away from patient care, and improve licensure mobility for military families and relocating providers. Maryland has already successfully joined other health professional licensure compacts, including the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). Extending this approach to podiatric medicine is a logical next step to strengthen our health care workforce.

Additionally, there are no expected startup technology or infrastructure costs to the State. Startup technology and services are covered through existing Medical Compact Commission infrastructure and a Health Resources and Services Administration grant awarded to the Federation of Podiatric Medical

Boards. Maryland is not required to build or maintain a new system. Ongoing costs are not expected to be borne by the Board. Operations are funded through a portion of the application fee and renewal fee paid by the applicants.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 619. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Bloch, MPMA Executive Director, at Richard@SBHPA.com or (410) 332-0736.

Sincerely,



Priya Parthasarathy, D.P.M., MPMA President

Cc: Adam Lowy, D.P.M., Immediate Past-President and Legislative Chair
Sarah Peters, Lobbyist, HBS Maryland
Richard Bloch, J.D., Executive Director