

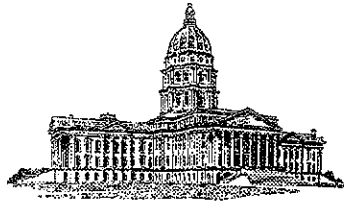
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**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Oral Proponent Testimony in Support of
HB 2456 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
March 9, 2016**

I appear before you this afternoon as a proponent of House Bill 2456. HB 2456 will allow Kansas to join 12 other States as a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. 11 other states have this legislation currently under consideration.

The IMLC establishes a streamlined licensing process for physicians interested in practicing medicine in multiple states. The IMLC would make it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, thus helping extend the impact and availability of care at a time when demand for physician services is expected to grow significantly. The compacts licensing procedure can be likened to the TSA Pre-Check program for airport security. The airport security process is generally to stand in a long security line, take off your belt and shoes, and take your laptop out of your briefcase, etc., very time consuming, and sometimes very stressful.

A new option is to go through the more intense TSA Pre Check program, submitting your fingerprints and have a FBI background check. Passing the pre-check will allow you to go through a very short security line, with limited disruption, and be cleared to board quickly, with minimal stress. With Physician licensing a physician can still individually license in each state by going through the licensing procedure state by state, or utilize the compact, meet the enhanced requirements, pass the background check, and be then able to be licensed in all member states at one time.

The IMLC would ultimately increase access to health care for individuals in underserved or rural areas and allow patients to more easily consult medical experts through the use of telemedicine technologies. For Kansas licensed physicians, the possibility of exporting their skills via telemedicine will be a real bonus of the compact.

It is estimated 80% of physicians in the U.S. are eligible for expedited licensure, and the IMLC would greatly expand the reach of telemedicine. In addition, for border counties like mine there will be the option for physicians to practice across state borders, if both Border States are compact members.

Importantly, the IMLC allows Kansas to maintain control over the licensure and practice of medicine through a coordinated legislative and administrative process. The IMLC also requires all licensure standards currently in effect in the state's Medical Practice Act to be satisfied before an expedited license could be issued. Once an expedited license is issued, a physician must comply with all laws, rules, and regulations of the state where the patient is located.

In summary, among the issues s=driving the need for a compact are physician shortages and the growing need to increase access to healthcare for individuals in underserved or rural areas through the use of telemedicine, and in the case of my county, physicians being able to cross state lines into Montgomery County to provide medical care to residents in my community.

Thank you and I will be happy to stand for questions.

Jim Kelly
Representative - District 11