

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Virginia Fox
Chairman
Committee on Education & the Workforce
United States Congress
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education & the Workforce
United State Congress
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Congress
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Congress
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Fox and Chairman Jordan and Ranking Members Scott and Nadler:

We write as healthcare providers and organizations in support of the **States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act, H.R. 1310**, sponsored by Representatives Tracey Mann (KS-01) and Joe Neguse (CO-02).

The healthcare industry is experiencing significant shortages in our workforce. These shortages are even more apparent in underserved rural and urban areas. Over the last decade, states have enacted interstate licensure compacts, including compacts for physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. Compacts have been extremely helpful, including when paired with telehealth, to provide access to care, especially in those areas experiencing shortages of healthcare professionals.

However, through the compact implementation process, some states have struggled to originate compact licenses in their respective states. In some instances, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has prevented the release of background check information to assist in the processing of a compact licensure application. H.R. 1310 will address this problem by requiring the FBI to make available criminal history record information to a state occupational or professional licensing authority for background checks of individuals seeking a license under an interstate compact. A state licensing authority may not share criminal history record information with the compact's commission, any other state entity or licensing authority, or the public, but may inform the compact's commission of completion of a background check.

Our goal is to ensure that every provider who seeks licensure is properly vetted to ensure patients are protected. We believe H.R. 1310 provides protections and will allow states to

properly assess applicants seeking an interstate compact licensure to fill the workforce shortages.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. We respectfully ask for your support in hearing this legislation and passing it through the Committee.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Connected Care

American Physical Therapy Association

American Telehealth Association and ATA Action

Ascension

Avera Health

Bellin+Gundersen Health System

BJC HealthCare

Bon Secours Mercy Health

Essentia Health

Federation of State Medical Board Healthcare Leadership Council

Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice

Marshfield Clinic Health System

Mercy

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

Pyramid Healthcare, Inc.

Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative

Sanford Health

SSM Health

Talkiatry

Trinity Health

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)

UnityPoint Health

Wyoming Medical Society