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The Honorable Mike Shirkey, Chairman, Senate Health Policy Committee
Honorable Members, Senate Health Policy Committee
Michigan State Senate
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Ascension Michigan's **Support for House Bills 4582 & 4583**; legislation providing for the state of Michigan to join the Interstate Medical Licensure compact. As you know, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact provides for a completely voluntary new alternative pathway to expedited licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states.

As a member of Ascension, the largest Catholic health system in the world, and the largest nonprofit health system in the U.S. with a presence in 24 states and the District of Columbia and over 1,900 sites of care, Ascension Michigan along with our colleagues in other states where we have a presence, believe adoption of this compact is a critical step to increasing access to health care for patients in underserved urban/rural areas, allowing them to more easily connect with medical experts through the use of Virtual Care.

While our experience with Michigan's medical licensure process has been largely positive in terms of the timely processing and granting of medical licenses, the professional licensure process varies from state to state and can be lengthier in other states. For Ascension employed/affiliated physicians who wish to be part of our clinical networks serving multiple states, the varying licensure processes, duration of a license and corresponding state licensure requirements, have proven to be quite burdensome and have contributed to slower utilization of virtual care/telehealth technology.

In anticipation of some common questions regarding this legislation, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that allowing Michigan to become part of the Interstate Medical Licensure compact would not impact the State of Michigan's autonomy and/or control over the practice of Medicine, the definition of a physician, or the ability of a state's Medical Board to take disciplinary action against a physician whose patient is located in the state, just as is the current practice today. Furthermore, although the Compact does require a physician who participates to meet strict eligibility requirements, it does not require Maintenance of Certification at any stage of the process rather it requires physicians to possess specialty certification or a time-unlimited certificate as an entry point into the Compact process. Once issued a

license by a Compact member state, the physician must comply with existing state rules, regulations and standards.

We are aware of separate legislation (SB's 608 & 609 and HB's 5090 & 5091) that seek to address concerns raised by the physician community regarding Maintenance of Certification rules for physicians through one of 24 approved medical specialty boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties and the 18 approved medical specialty Boards of the American Osteopathic Association that require physicians to demonstrate proficiency in their medical specialty every two to three years. We believe this legislation is the appropriate venue for a discussion of this issue/concern.

Finally, I wanted to again emphasize that the expedited licensure process is completely voluntary. Physicians who choose not to apply for an expedited license through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact can continue to seek licensure in multiple states through current state processes. **Ascension Michigan urges your support of this legislation** enabling Michigan to become one more state, in addition to the current 12 states, to adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and thereby improve access to medical specialists for thousands of Michigan patients.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support of HB's 4582 & 4583. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and/or concerns regarding Ascension Michigan's support of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Carrie Stover, MSN, NP-C
Senior Director, Ascension Virtual Care