



November 18, 2015

Humayun Chaudhry, DO, MACP
President and CEO
Federation of State Medical Boards
400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300
Eules, TX 76039

J. Daniel Gifford, MD, FACP
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Federation of State Medical Boards
400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300
Eules, TX 76039

Dear Dr. Chaudhry and Dr. Gifford:

On behalf of Ascension Health, I am writing to express support for the Federation of State Medical Boards' efforts to advance the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Passage of the Act will expedite medical licensure and facilitate multi-state practices to deliver the highest quality care to all. As healthcare is rapidly transforming, it is necessary to be adequately equipped to address the rise of telemedicine and new technology.

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all persons with special attention to those who are struggling the most. More than 150,000 associates and 35,000 affiliated providers serve in 1,900 sites of care – including 131 hospitals and more than 30 senior care facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia.

For many of our patients who live in rural areas, the Compact's proposal to streamline the process of allowing physicians to become licensed in multiple states will provide significant benefit. As we focus on improving access to care for our patients, we believe the Compact both empowers physicians and ensures our patients' safety. We are pleased that an estimated 80 percent of physicians could be eligible.

Ascension currently has a team focused on implementation of virtual care across our system, with the term "Virtual Care" meaning telemedicine, remote monitoring, electronic transmission of medical information, and consumer-oriented websites or "apps." The essential focus is to meet those who Ascension serves with care or support, when, where and how they want to receive it. Virtual Care has wide penetration across Ascension, with 63 telemedicine and remote-monitoring programs operating across most areas where the system has a presence. Adoption of the Compact in more states and licensure of physicians in those states would allow our physicians to provide medical services and consult with colleagues and patients regardless of geography. We support its immediate adoption.

As we continue to focus on ways to transform our delivery system, Ascension looks forward to continued progress with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to secure access to healthcare for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. J. Henkel'.

Robert J. Henkel, FACHE
President and CEO, Ascension Health
Executive Vice President, Ascension