



March 18, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President,

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national non-profit organization representing the nation's state medical and osteopathic boards within the United States, its territories and the District of Columbia. Our member boards license, regulate and discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians and, in many jurisdictions, other health care professionals.

The FSMB stands ready to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic on behalf of state medical and osteopathic boards across the country. The FSMB has decided to provide free access to its Physician Data Center (PDC), the nation's largest and most comprehensive repository of licensure and disciplinary information for the more than 1 million physicians and physician assistants licensed in the U.S. Through the PDC, state medical boards, hospitals, and eligible state and federal agencies have the ability to instantly verify licenses and other credentials for physicians and physician assistants being deployed to practice across state lines to treat patients in areas impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

President Trump's declaration of a national emergency and numerous state emergency declarations have mobilized thousands of physicians to volunteer for in-person care and to practice remotely through telehealth. While some state licensure laws are temporarily waived, it is essential that hospitals, payers, and licensing and credentialing entities have complete and up-to-date information to quickly and accurately verify licensure status, specialty information and disciplinary history, at a minimum. The FSMB has expanded its free access to the PDC to hospitals, federal agencies, and other entities in order to immediately expedite the mobility of qualified physicians and physician assistants without compromising patient safety and quality.

The FSMB is committed to working with the Administration, federal, state, local and industry partners on initiatives that can balance workforce and delivery needs with safe and effective patient care. We commend the tireless work of the Coronavirus Task Force, state medical board members and staff, and the dedication of physicians and health care professionals to go above and beyond to care for patients.

Sincerely,

Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP
President and CEO
Federation of State Medical Boards