

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Virginia Fox  
Chairman  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
United States Congress  
2176 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 Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
United State Congress  
2101 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 to you 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 you to support in hearing this legislation and passing it through the Committee.

Sincerely,



Donnie Woodyard, Jr.  
Executive Director

Cc: Commissioner Kraig Kinney [IN], Chair