

**Federation of State Medical Boards
House of Delegates Meeting
April 30, 2022**

Subject: Supporting Development of Regulatory Innovation to Enhance State Board Function and Achieve True License Portability

Introduced by: Washington Medical Commission

Approved: February 14, 2022

Whereas, State medical boards serve an important role in protecting the citizens of their states by ensuring that physicians and physician assistants are qualified and competent; and

Whereas, State medical boards are expected by the public, the profession, and policy makers to be leaders in responding to issues relating to access to care and workforce flexibility; and

Whereas, It is the stated mission of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) to provide its member boards services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices; and

Whereas, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the use and acceptance of telemedicine to practice across state lines has increased and resulted in calls for state medical boards to modify their laws, regulations, and administrative processes; and

Whereas, The traditional state-based licensure model was not designed with true licensure portability in mind, requiring development of new policies, laws and regulations to facilitate this shift in healthcare, such as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, and has led to states looking to develop other models of license recognition and portability; and

Whereas, While the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact has enabled expedited licensure in participating states, there still remains barriers to greater licensure portability due to the reliance on legacy policies and systems for the issuance and verification of identity attributes necessary to assess a physician's fitness for licensure; and

Whereas, The FSMB provides state medical boards, federal and state agencies, and other entities valuable services for verifying practitioner information through its Physician Data Center (PDC) and Federation Credentials

Verification Service (FCVS), and has recently leveraged these services to support portability-focused initiatives such as ProviderBridge; and

Whereas, State and federal regulators are actively developing digital credentials and, in some cases, already implementing these technologies, such as digital drivers licenses, for everyday use to verify identities in a secure and trusted manner; and

Whereas, Continued federal interest in developing solutions to address license portability has and will continue to threaten the state-based licensure model designed to ensure patient safety and practitioner accountability; and

Whereas, True license portability for physicians and physician assistants is a necessary evolution for regulators to adapt to the needs of a global economy and the expectations of the public more than two years into a global pandemic; and

Whereas, A modernized system that would allow for the collection and distribution of digital licensure credentials in a secure, verifiable manner that eliminates the need for redundant and repetitive re-verification thereby facilitating greater licensure portability is a solution that is in the public interest and must be explored; and

Whereas, It is recognized that some state medical boards lack sufficient resources to implement the types of enhancements to policy and technical infrastructure and staffing that are necessary to address the barriers to greater licensure portability; and

Whereas, As state medical boards look towards the future of medical regulation, FSMB can provide value to its membership by exploring solutions that support enhanced license portability while maintaining their role to protect their citizens by ensuring their physicians and physician assistants are qualified and competent, and ensuring funding for operations; and

Whereas, The FSMB possesses the necessary resources, knowledge and data to develop such a process, which is a viable solution to portability;

Therefore, be it hereby

Resolved: that the FSMB will support creation of a digital credentials system by which states can verify and trust licensure credentials without the need for re-issuance or re-verification of said credentials, allow for a more expedient licensure process, such as licensure by endorsement or reciprocity, and work to minimize the reliance on paper documentation of educational history, assessment performance, and licensure history; and be it further

Resolved:

that the FSMB shall support enhancements to its Physician Data Center that continue to provide the public a centralized point of information that can be used by state medical boards, federal and state agencies, and the public to verify licenses and which permits the public to file complaints that would be transmitted to the appropriate state or jurisdiction; and be it further

Resolved:

that the FSMB shall create an advisory committee on regulatory innovation consisting of state board members, state board executives, and subject matter experts to propose, advise, and support further enhancements to license portability that retain individual state regulatory authority while allowing practitioners to practice nationally.