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September 16, 2022

Rules and Administrative Procedures Committee
Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission

Delivered via email

Re: IMLC Rule Chapter 6 Comments

Dear Rules and Administrative Procedures Committee of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission,

On behalf of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA), representing over 12,000 physicians and physician assistants across Washington state, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment in support of the proposed amendments to IMLC Rule Chapter 6. The WSMA recognizes abortion as an essential component of reproductive health care and supports the right of physicians to include abortion as part of their practice and of patients seeking to access the full range of reproductive health care services.

Despite the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, abortion services in Washington state remain legal, however that is not the case for all states. The resulting patchwork of legality and interconnectedness of Compact states creates new complexities. The proposed amendments will offer some additional safeguards to help ensure physicians licensed through the Compact who are performing lawful services in states where abortion is legal are protected from discipline and other repercussions that could be pursued by states with restrictive abortion laws under current Compact rules. We are thankful the Commission is responding to this changing landscape and recognize that there will likely need to be additional efforts taken to protect these physicians as we continue to learn about the widespread impacts of the ruling.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment in support of the proposed amendments to IMLC Rule Chapter 6. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alex Wehinger, WSMA's Associate Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, at alex@wsma.org.

Sincerely,

Alex Wehinger

Alex Wehinger
Associate Director of Legislative and Political Affairs
Washington State Medical Association

cc: WSMA Executive Committee
Jennifer Hanscom, CEO
Jeb Shepard, Director of Policy
Sean Graham, Director of Government Affairs