

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, write to voice our strong support for the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act, and urge you to support this legislation from Representative Tracey Mann (R-KS).

Many professionals must obtain a license or certification from their state allowing them to practice. If a provider relocates to another state, or would like to practice across state lines, they must complete the full licensure or certification process again for any additional state. This process includes applications, proof of eligibility, and fees, and could take months to complete. During this time, they are unable to practice in the state in which they have applied. The solution to expediting this process is through the creation of an interstate compact, a solution many professions, including a number of health professions, are developing.

These compacts establish a data system allowing for instantaneous verification of licensure or certification between any two states in the compact. This allows states to recognize the license or certification of a provider in any other compact state. The provider would simply need to apply for privileges to practice in the compact state, and the process which normally takes months, could be done in just days or even hours.

Under current law, for states to participate in an interstate compact, they must collaborate with state law enforcement to set up a partnership with the FBI to conduct background checks for new licensing or certification applicants. The FBI has the authority to provide these background checks from legislation passed in 1972, long before virtual options existed, and before the portability of licensure or certification was vital to ensuring access to services. The SHARE Act would simply make a technical correction by allowing a state licensing or certification entity to share the fact that a criminal background check was completed with the interstate compact commission. The only information provided would be the binary determination of whether or not the criminal history background check of an applicant was satisfactory. This change would modernize a vital component of the licensure or certification process.

Fixing this technicality would have a major impact with regards to increasing access to health care – particularly for patients in underserved or rural areas, while allowing states to protect their authority to determine who is eligible to practice in the state. Extending the reach of health care professionals, improving access to medical specialists, and leveraging the use of new medical technologies, such as telehealth, would benefit every participating state in the compact.

We hope you will support the SHARE Act. If you have any questions, you can contact Abe Saffer at the American Occupational Therapy Association at [asaffer@aota.org](mailto:asaffer@aota.org). Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
Council of State Governments