



March 29, 2016

The Honorable Steve Thompson
Co-Chairman
House Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chairman Thompson:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Alaska Osteopathic Medical Association (AKOMA) are writing in support of HB 237. This bill enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The AOA and AKOMA believe that this legislation would ease administrative burdens for physicians interested in holding a license to practice medicine in multiple states, while allowing Alaska to maintain control over medical licensure, discipline and patient protection.

The AOA represents more than 123,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools, and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. AKOMA is a professional organization that represents over 200 DOs providing patient care in Alaska.

The AOA supports the intent of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, as it will allow states to continue to govern activities within their borders, while encouraging states to work together to ease the burdens of holding a license in multiple states. Physician interest in holding licenses in multiple states has grown with the increasing use of telemedicine nationally. This use of technology is one way to improve patient access to care, and potentially address physician workforce shortage issues.

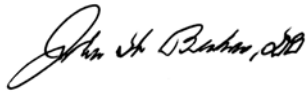
We support HB 237 and ask that you vote this bill out of committee. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

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Sincerely,



John Becher, DO
President, AOA



Nancy Kragt, DO
President, AKOMA

CC: Boyd R. Buser, DO, AOA President-elect
Joseph Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
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