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September 20, 2017

The Honorable Hank Vaupel, Chairman, *and*
Members of the House Health Policy Committee

Dear Chairman Vaupel and Members of the Committee,

We are writing on behalf of AARP Michigan to express our **support for House Bill 4066-4067** (Tedder), which would include the State of Michigan in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

AARP members have a significant interest in the passage of the Compact, which would create an expedited and less administratively burdensome process for physicians seeking licensure in multiple states. Patients in underserved areas often have difficulty accessing care due to physician shortages and lack of specialists within a drivable distance. Adopting the Compact is a common sense way to encourage physicians to provide care both in-person or through telehealth technology in multiple states, connecting patients in need of care with qualified physicians.

The Compact comes at a critical time as demand for primary care services is projected to increase through 2020, with aging and population growth accounting for an 81% change in demand.[i] Additionally, shortages of specialists can compromise patient care and drive up the cost of health care. For example, there is a shortage of geriatricians in the United States, with fewer than four certified geriatricians in the United States per 10,000 individuals 75 years of age or older.[ii] Hospital stays for patients receiving care from a geriatrician were about a day shorter on average than the stays for non-geriatrician's patients, resulting in a $900 difference in the cost of hospital stays.[iii]

In short, AARP supports HB 4066-4067 as a way to encourage physicians to practice in multiple states, improve patient access to care, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs. We appreciate this opportunity to share our comments and our support for this legislation. If you have questions

or if there is further information we can provide, please feel free to contact Melissa Seifert at 517-267-8934 or MSeifert@AARP.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lisa Dedden Cooper
Manager of Advocacy

Melissa Seifert
Associate State Director, Government Affairs

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[i] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. *Projecting the supply and demand for primary care practitioners through 2020.* Rockville, Maryland: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013.
[ii] American Geriatrics Society. *What are the current and projected future doctor to patient ratios in geriatrics?* http://www.americangeriatrics.org/advocacy_public_policy/gwps/gwps_faqs/id:3188
[iii] Sorbero, M. E., Saul, M. I., Liu, H. and Resnick, N. M. (2012). Are geriatricians more efficient than other physicians at managing inpatient care for elderly patients? *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 60: 869–876.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(4) social welfare organization that advocates on issues that matter the most to people age 50 and over, and their families. AARP has approximately 1.4 million members in Michigan. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates.