

April 24, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
State House
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) and our nationwide employer member companies commend you for taking swift and strategic actions to address the COVID-19 crisis. We are writing to urge your administration to take a critically important step to make health care immediately available and accessible across your state. **Specifically, we ask that you officially join the Interstate Medical Licensure Commission Compact (IMLCC).** The IMLCC is an agreement among participating U.S. states to expedite the pathway to licensure for physicians who qualify. Joining the compact will eliminate barriers to care during this pandemic crisis when families need access to telehealth more than ever before. For a state to join the IMLCC, the legislature must introduce and enact a bill authorizing the state to join the compact. The language of the compact must be consistent amongst the participating states. States participating must accept the terms of the legislation, adopt and sign the bill into law.

ERIC is a national advocacy organization that exclusively represents large employers that provide health, retirement, paid leave, and other benefits to their nationwide workforces. Our member companies are leaders in every sector of the economy, with stores, warehouses, factories, and operations in every state. ERIC member companies, like most large employers, offer telehealth benefits to workers and their families, but telehealth in your state is not fully available to them because your state does not participate in the IMLCC.

For high-quality telehealth services to be widely available and accessible during this time, telehealth must develop without regulatory barriers that limit availability. Many states participate in the IMLCC, taking the proactive measure of waiving burdensome state medical licensure requirements for out-of-state providers, allowing telehealth providers to practice in multiple states without having to endure a cumbersome and often delayed application process. The compact allows qualified providers to receive licenses for each participating state through a singular and streamlined application process. Permitting providers to practice in multiple states compensates for provider shortages in COVID-19 hotspots as well as rural regions that lack access to care.

Thank you for considering our request. We know waiving this requirement can help patients in your state get the care they need, when they need it. ERIC is standing by to help if you have any questions, or we can be a resource in any way. Please contact ERIC's Carly Sternberg at csternberg@eric.org or 202.627.1914, or me. Thank you again for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

