



**For Immediate Release**

January 23, 2015

Contact: Tiffany Edwards, 202-331-0110, [policy@fsmb.org](mailto:policy@fsmb.org)

**Nine States Formally Introduce Legislation to Speed Physician Licensing Across State Lines**  
*FSMB Unveils New Map to Track State Support*

WASHINGTON – With some state legislative sessions only a few weeks old, already legislators in nine states – Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming – have formally introduced the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, model legislation that would speed the process of issuing licenses for physicians who wish to practice in multiple states. The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has launched a new webpage, <http://licenseportability.org>, to track the progress of the Compact in state legislatures.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact would modernize and streamline interstate licensing while maintaining oversight, accountability and patient protections. The new interstate compact system would help physicians improve access to care for patients in multiple jurisdictions and help underserved populations receive the healthcare they need.

“The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which is now being considered in state legislatures across the country, offers an effective solution to the question of how best to balance patient safety and quality care with the needs of a growing and changing health care market,” **said Dr. Humayun J. Chaudhry**, president and CEO of FSMB. “We’re pleased to have supported the state medical board community as it developed this groundbreaking model legislation and look forward to working with states that wish to implement this innovative approach to licensure.”

The final model Interstate Medical Licensure Compact legislation was released in September 2014. Since then, more than 25 medical and osteopathic boards have publicly expressed support for the Compact.

“We applaud the progress being made to ensure that Iowans have access to quality healthcare services,” **said Mark Bowden**, executive director of the Iowa Board of Medicine. “This legislation would expand access to telemedicine, making it easier for physicians to see patients. Everything about this legislation is a win-win for our state, our physicians, and most importantly, our patients.”

“We are pleased to see Vermont leading the way on ensuring that all its patients have access to quality healthcare,” **said Patricia King, MD, PhD**, immediate past president of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. “Doctors and patients will benefit from a streamlined and less cumbersome licensing process that expands access to care.”

