



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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July 14, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
United States Senate  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blunt and Murphy:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I am writing to offer our support and thanks for introducing the Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment (TREAT) Act. This bill would help expand care to patients by creating a temporary uniform licensing standard for all practitioners and professionals that hold a valid license in good standing to practice, including those providing mental health services, in all states for in-person or telehealth visits during a national emergency and for a transition period following the end of the national emergency.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, groundbreaking medical research, and community collaborations. Its members comprise all 155 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their 173,000 faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the health care delivery system in unprecedented ways. We are grateful that Congress and the administration have taken substantial steps to provide regulatory relief and expand access to care for patients. It is critical that we build upon these successes. However, significant state variation with respect to licensing reciprocity and restrictions has created a barrier to fully respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the use of telemedicine has been greatly expanded during the pandemic, the ability to provide access to care across state lines through telemedicine or by having providers temporarily re-locate to areas in need often is limited by state licensing laws. Licensure restrictions – traditionally an area of regulation left to states, especially during a pandemic – have

resulted in reduced access to care for patients. Physicians are unable to treat patients across state lines unless they are licensed in the patient's state or their state has a compact with the other state.

The AAMC supports the TREAT Act because it provides important flexibility during an emergency to ensure that patients receive the care they need. This would have many important benefits for patients, including providing access and continuity of care for mental health treatment, oncology patients, and others with serious or life-threatening conditions, and allowing health systems to draw on available licensed clinicians to meet the demands of a surge as outbreaks continue to arise. The TREAT Act also would facilitate providers' ability to respond to the next national emergency or pandemic.

Thank you again for your leadership in working to allow the needed flexibility for health care workers to provide critical care to patients across state lines during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Please feel free to contact me or Leonard Marquez ([lm Marquez@aamc.org](mailto:lm Marquez@aamc.org)), Sr. Director, Government Relations, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, JD  
AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer