

## The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association



*The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* (JAOA) encourages osteopathic physicians, faculty members and students at colleges of osteopathic medicine, and others within the health care professions to submit comments related to articles published in the JAOA and the mission of the osteopathic medical profession. The JAOA's editors are particularly interested in letters that discuss recently published original research.

Letters must be submitted online at <http://www.osteopathic.org/JAOASubmit>. Letters to the editor are considered for publication in the JAOA with the understanding that they have not been published elsewhere and are not simultaneously under consideration by any other publication. All accepted letters to the editor are subject to editing and abridgment.

Although the JAOA welcomes letters to the editor, these contributions have a lower publication priority than other submissions. As a consequence, letters are published only when space allows.

### Interstate Medical Licensure Compact: Pernicious Myths and Inescapable Facts

To the Editor:

In the October 2015 issue of *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*, Maresh<sup>1</sup> commented on the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). As representatives of the osteopathic physicians and surgeons in Washington State, we do not support entering into the IMLC and offer counterpoints to a couple of Maresh's "myth and fact" statements.

First, concerning Section 13 of the IMLC, the actual costs of the Compact and its implementation needs are unknown. Utah's Fiscal Note assumes a cost of \$74,000 in fiscal year 2016.<sup>2</sup> This is an estimate only; a positive fiscal impact on the state of Utah is predicted, not calculated or appropriated. Washington State's initial legislation<sup>3</sup> would place responsibility for IMLC cost overruns specifically on osteopathic and allopathic physicians through required license fees. Potential cost overruns include the following<sup>3</sup>:

- Legal fees from civil actions (Section 14)
- Legal fees from judicial review proceedings (Section 15)
- Dues, obligations, and liabilities incurred by a state for having defaulted in its Compact responsibilities and be terminated from the Compact (Section 18)

Second, referring to Section 21 of the Compact, Maresh<sup>1</sup> argues that it would be simple for a state legislature to repeal the IMLC. However, partisan gridlock is an unfortunate reality nationwide and here in Washington State. Our legislature meets relatively infrequently and many routine legislative actions are falling by the wayside, so a hypothetical withdrawal from the IMLC would be onerous and expensive.

Our organization does not support our state entering into the compact as it currently exists because of the unpredictable costs and unintended policy consequences that could be imposed upon our members. We are not against the idea of the IMLC and appreciate efforts to protect individual states' ability to govern medical licensure.

We encourage all osteopathic physicians and state associations to carefully compare the broad language of the Compact to the specific language in their individual state legislation; only then can individual states and medical associations make the objective decision as to whether to support joining the IMLC. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2016.056)

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### References

1. Maresh BT. Interstate Medical Licensure Compact: pernicious myths and inescapable facts. *J Am Osteopath Assoc*. 2015;115(10):588-590. doi:10.7556/jaoa.2015.119.
2. Ward R. Fiscal note. *Interstate Medical Licensure Compact*. HB 121 (Utah 2015). <http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0121.html>. Accessed January 25, 2016.
3. Senate Bill 6228, 64th Leg, Reg Sess (Wash 2016). <http://lawfilesexet.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/6228.pdf>. Accessed March 28, 2016.

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**Editor's Note:** Since this letter was submitted, the Washington State Legislature voted down legislation to join the IMLC. There may be a new bill in upcoming legislative sessions.

### Correction

The authors regret an error that appeared in the following abstract:

**Domenig P, Shin K, Vurkmer N, Lu H. Mechanism of cerebellar ataxia treatment by transcranial direct current stimulation is associated with the modulation of purkinje cell activity: an in vivo study using rats [abstract B33]. *J Am Osteopath Assoc*. 2016;116(1):e66-e67.**

The third author's name was incorrectly provided as "Natalie Vurkmer." Her last name should have appeared as "Vukmer." This correction will be made to the online version of the abstract. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2016.042)