



March 4, 2024

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund, Chair  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
1100 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave. W.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Minnesota Senate File 3611

Dear Chair Wiklund,

On behalf of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), I would like to comment on Senate File 3611, which has been referred to your Committee. As the membership organization of the nation's 70 state and territorial medical and osteopathic boards, FSMB serves as a collective voice for medical regulation and supports boards in carrying out their statutory responsibilities to protect the public by assuring physicians are qualified and prepared to safely provide health care services to the public.

There is increasing interest among state policymakers to address patient access and projected workforce shortages by easing licensure requirements, including requirements related to examination and postgraduate training, by creating new licensure categories and pathways. These legislative proposals would bypass requirements that have been depended upon to ensure physicians have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to safely provide their services to patients. There are some commonalities among these proposals, but also differences that will create confusion among physicians, regulators, and patients.

In response, FSMB, together with the national organizations representing graduate medical education accreditation, international medical graduate certification, specialty certification, and medical education are working together to develop meaningful recommendations for licensing requirements and pathways for foreign trained and practicing physicians, the subject of SF 3611. This work has begun, and the group is expected to issue recommendations and identify resources for states in the coming months. Accordingly, FSMB urges the Committee to recommend SF 3611 not progress, pending the release of the aforementioned recommendations, with the mutual goal of improving access, while protecting patients from harm and assuring the delivery of quality care to all patient populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. FSMB urges the Committee to pause consideration of SF 3611 until the forthcoming recommendations for licensure requirements related to foreign trained and practicing physicians are issued.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Robin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Robin" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa A. Robin  
Chief Advocacy Officer

*About FSMB*

*FSMB is a national non-profit organization representing the medical boards within the United States and its territories that license and discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals. FSMB serves as the voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, research, and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices. FSMB serves the public through [Docinfo.org](http://Docinfo.org), a free physician search tool that provides background information on the more than 1 million doctors in the United States.*