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August 14, 2017

Representative Kate Hogan
Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
24 Beacon Street
State House, Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support of H.1188/S.1162, An Act relative to Nurse Licensure Compact in Massachusetts

To the Honorable Representative Kate Hogan:

On behalf of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals (COBTH) I am reaching out to request that *H.1188/S.1162, An Act relative to Nurse Licensure Compact in Massachusetts*, be favorably reported out of the Joint Committee on Public Health.

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) allows nurses to have one multistate license in the state where they reside, with the privilege to practice in their home state and all other states that are members of the NLC. **There are 14,000 nurses currently residing in Massachusetts who hold a license in another state who would benefit from this legislation.** For Massachusetts to remain a leader in health care, we need a licensing system that reflects the way we treat patients in the 21st century. The Commonwealth will be left behind if we do not join the Nurse Licensure Compact and enact this legislation this session.

The licensing requirements under the NLC are **more** stringent than those in Massachusetts. In addition to meeting all 11 uniform licensure requirements, a nurse who wishes to obtain a multistate license must meet their home state's requirements and must submit to a federal criminal background check. Currently, nurses applying to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing for licensure are not required to undergo a federal background check. There are only 10 states that do not require nurses to undergo a background check, and two states with 2017 legislation to require it. New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island have already joined the NLC, and Massachusetts should take similar action.

Last session, the bill was reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Public Health to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. We hope for a similar outcome this session, and we thank you for scheduling the bill for an early hearing in the session calendar since we will use the additional time to work with the secondary committee.

COBTH is open to answering any questions about our support of the Nurse Licensure Compact. We hope your committee able to give the bill a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

John Erwin
Executive Director
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals