

## **Federation of State Medical Boards**

### **Update**

#### **FSMB has established a Workgroup on Emergency Preparedness and Response for State Medical Boards.**

The charge of this workgroup is to:

- Coordinate and work with external stakeholders including, but not limited to, representatives from Administrators in Medicine, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and the federal government<sup>[1]</sup>;
- Collect and evaluate federal and state<sup>[2]</sup> experiences and outcomes in response to the national emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those measures related to expedited medical licensure and other means of mobilizing and expanding the health care workforce and its resulting impact on quality of, and access to, health care;
- Evaluate existing policy resources including, but not limited to, the FSMB's policies related to telemedicine, physician wellness, and emergency licensure to identify and recommend policy modifications applicable in times of a public health and/or national emergency;
- Identify and recommend critical data elements and regulatory safeguards to ensure the integrity of the deployed health professional workforce during a public health and/or national emergency;
- Evaluate the capacity and readiness of the FSMB's Physician Data Center and other national databases to support the deployment of the healthcare workforce, both in person and through telehealth, in response to a public health and/or national emergency; and
- Develop recommendations for universal tools and resources that could be used by state and federal agencies to efficiently and safely mobilize and expand the health care workforce in response to a public health and/or national emergency.

The President is a member of this workgroup.

#### **FSMB was awarded under the HRSA COVID-19 License Portability Grant Program.**

Under the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, FSMB awarded \$2.5M for the period May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Primarily agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>[2]</sup> "state" to include state and territorial medical and osteopathic boards, state emergency services offices, departments of public health, and other health professional regulatory boards, including nursing and pharmacy.

FSMB will use grant funds to:

- Goal 1: Develop communication pathways to facilitate the use telehealth technologies in response to and preparation for health care emergencies as a result of COVID-19, including creation of a customer service hub to help clinicians navigate the various state requirements
- Goal 2: Develop a new technology platform to streamline the process for mobilizing health care professionals during COVID-19 and future of public health emergencies
- Goal 3: Expand FSMB's technology platform to encompass other health care professionals
- Goal 4: Education and outreach to states and stakeholders to increase utilization and recognition of the technical platform as a resource for responding to and preparing for COVID-19 and future national emergencies