



COLORADO

**Department of
Regulatory Agencies**

Division of Professions and Occupations

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chair
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chair
United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walberg, Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senators Grassley and Cassidy and Representatives Walberg and Jordan and members of the Judiciary; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; and Education and the Workforce and Committees:

We are writing to share our support for the SHARE Act (S. 1101, H.R. 2332), which was introduced by Sens. Marsha Blackburn (TN-R) and Peter Welch (VT-D) and Reps. Tracey Mann (KS-R) and Joe Neguse (CO-D) on March 25, 2025 and referred to your committees.

Colorado, like many states, has introduced several interstate licensure compacts to improve the mobility of occupational licenses and alleviate workforce shortages. These compacts have been highly effective and are valuable tools in the regulatory sphere. However, we have recently encountered problems implementing these compacts. Most compacts require background checks as part of the process of determining whether individuals are safe to practice. The FBI is required to approve national fingerprint background checks. Since a change in the interpretation of 34 U.S.

Code § 41101 in 2021, the FBI has been inconsistent in their approval of background checks for compact bills because they have made the determination (inaccurately in some cases) that compacts are private entities and, as such, should not have access to applicant background information that is obtained by state agencies.

The SHARE Act requires the FBI to complete criminal history record checks and provide information to the requesting state for individuals seeking a license under an interstate compact. The state cannot share the results of the check with the compact; however the state may share with the compact that the check has been completed.

This Act is critical to ensure that states like Colorado are able to continue to implement interstate licensure compacts. In Colorado, for example, there are currently six interstate licensure compacts that have been authorized by the state legislature, but cannot be implemented and utilized because the state is unable to complete background checks through the FBI. Affected professions are: Audiology/Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Licensed Professional Counselor, Physician Assistant, Dental and Dental Hygienist, and Social Work.

If the SHARE Act is not passed, states like Colorado will not be able to utilize interstate licensure compacts because they will not be able to complete the required background checks. This reduces the portability of occupational licenses and exacerbates shortages of these professionals throughout the country. Accordingly, we urge you to take action to pass this crucial legislation to ensure that our critical health care workforce remains strong and is able to meet the needs of our growing population.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado



Patty Salazar
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies



Sam Delp
Director - Division of Professions and Occupations
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies