



June 25, 2021

Senate President Karen Spilka
State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Spilka,

On behalf of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and our 1,300 member companies, I write to support H.3774, *An Act reorganizing certain licensing agencies of the executive department*, offered by Governor Baker. The Chamber supports reorganizing healthcare provider licensing oversight, moving medically related licensing boards currently under the authority of the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) to the Department of Public Health (DPH), because doing so will streamline medical licensing application processes and should shorten the time period for licensing approval.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care and social assistance accounted for more than 600,000 jobs in Massachusetts in May 2021. The continued success of the sector relies on the swiftly processing licensing applications for individuals so they can practice in Massachusetts. In the past, our healthcare members cited delays in licensing approval as a major concern. Qualified providers waiting for the chance to begin practicing face weeks, if not months, of wait times for approval.

The proposed reorganization can improve licensing approvals because it will transfer oversight for 88,000 licensees to a department that is more closely aligned with their job functions. DPH is better suited to handle additional medical licensing board oversight due to the medical experts already in their system and the history they have with taking on additional licensing agencies; in 2003, seven medically related boards of registration were transferred. For a successful transition and to shorten the window for approvals, the Legislature should ensure DPH has adequate staffing and resources to oversee the additional licensing boards.

The Chamber appreciates your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

James E. Rooney
President and CEO