February 18, 2025

Vita Palazzolo Berg

General Counsel, Board of Registration in Medicine

178 Albion Street

Wakefield MA 01880

Re: 243 CMR 1.00 and 2.00 Shield Law Regulations

Dear Atty Berg:

We are writing in support of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine’s actions to codify Massachusetts Shield Law to protect physicians from any negative legal actions attempted or brought by other states with differing laws than the Commonwealth.

Health care does not recognize state boundaries. Patients seeking care for any medical condition should be allowed to participate in an identical process: to elicit symptoms, to assess a patient’s status via examination and laboratory testing, and to develop and implement a course of therapy that causes a patient’s overall health to improve. Nothing in this process is or should be predicated on geography. Therefore, geography or location should not be a legitimate reason to threaten either the patient or the provider. Nothing in this process should change based on a diagnosis or a class of medication. Therefore, prosecution of patient or physician should not and cannot be based on a diagnosis or use of legally approved medication.

A physician licensed in Massachusetts should be able to provide care to their patients without fear of retribution from a differing state. Physicians must be protected from legal consequences enacted by other states.

Sincerely,

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