



Pennsylvania
MEDICAL SOCIETY®

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Lawrence R. John, MD
President

August 28, 2020

Michael A. DellaVecchia, MD, PhD,
FAAO, FACS, FICS, FASLMS, FCPP
President Elect

Dear Chairwoman Rapp:

David A. Talenti, MD
Vice President

RE: Opposition of the Retaining Health Care Innovations Act, HB2779

John P. Gallagher, MD
Chair

On behalf of the physician members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED), I am writing to voice our opposition for the Retaining Health Care Innovations Act, HB2779, recently introduced by Representative Chris Quinn.

Amelia A. Paré, MD, FACS
Secretary

The legislation would extend the administrative flexibilities granted to health care facilities, practitioners, and providers during COVID-19 by Governor Wolf. The flexibilities and easement of regulations provided for under the COVID-19 emergency declaration would extend for one year after the end of the emergency declaration or termination of the statewide disaster declaration.

Martin P. Raniowski, MA
Executive Vice President

While the easement of regulations and licensing granted by the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic helped to ensure that the front lines of the crisis were adequately staffed, the fact remains that these stringent requirements are in place, under normal circumstances, for two important reasons: protecting patients and ensuring that healthcare provider's education and training meet the necessary licensure qualifications. This proposed legislation has the potential to erode these requirements on a more permanent basis and we believe that is neither the intent under the temporary easements or the best course of care for patients moving forward.

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We believe this legislation will lead to the erosion of important regulation and certification requirements that are in place to ensure patient safety and the best possible course of care and treatment for patients. While we understand why these were granted during the pandemic, we strongly oppose this bill and believe that extending these easements could ultimately jeopardize patient care.

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Email: KnowledgeCenter@pamedsociety.org
www.pamedsociety.org

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence R. John, M.D." in a cursive script.

Lawrence John, MD
President