



Philip Gunn
SPEAKER

Mississippi House of Representatives

POST OFFICE BOX 1018
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39215-1018
601-359-3300

MSBML

MAY 04 2016

May 2, 2016

Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Suite 200-B
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Dr. Crawford,

I write to discuss an important health issue facing our state: telemedicine. I appreciate your willingness to share this letter with the Board of Medical Licensure at your next regular scheduled meeting on May 19, 2016.

Nationally, Mississippi is highlighted as a leader in telemedicine growth and development. As the Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives, I have worked to ensure telemedicine services continue to grow in our state. This has been a priority for me because the shortage in medical workforce has resulted in a large number of underserved patients. It is my belief that we can utilize telemedicine to help better deliver health care to these most underserved populations.

This last legislative session, there was a robust conversation surrounding telemedicine, particularly how it should be defined and regulated. I anticipate further conversations surrounding telemedicine policy will continue during our next regular legislative session.

It is my request that the Board of Medical Licensure postpone the adoption of any telemedicine regulations for a one-year period. This will allow the legislature to continue a broad conversation with all those who have interest in telemedicine to develop our state's policy on this issue. Any new regulations passed by the Board of Medical Licensure would impede our ability to create a comprehensive law that best meets the needs of all Mississippians. When we have had time to develop this law, I will look to the Board of Medical Licensure to adopt regulation based on that law.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. As always, please contact my office with any questions or concerns I can be helpful with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Gunn".

Speaker Philip Gunn