

## Project Description

Recent years have witnessed a worrisome decline in interstate migration.<sup>1</sup> There is no clear academic consensus surrounding what is driving this decline, but one hypothesis that the rise of occupational licensing has played a role.<sup>2</sup> Licensing poses a barrier to relocating across state lines or practicing in multiple states since professionals must typically be licensed in each state in which they practice, and because individual states' licensing requirements often vary.<sup>3</sup>

One promising policy approach to ease these barriers is the development of interstate compacts. In recent years, a number of professions and regulatory associations—particularly those in health care—have formed interstate agreements designed to ease licensing barriers to interstate migration and practice. These professions include doctors, nurses, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, and pharmacists.<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless, these agreements have been designed and implemented in different ways, and thus far we know very little about the effects of these agreements.

One of the most prominent agreements is the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). The IMLC aims to improve access to health care by making it easier for physicians to practice across state lines and engage in telehealth.<sup>5</sup> We aim to evaluate the impacts of the IMLC by exploiting the timing of when states joined the IMLC. We are interested in evaluating its impacts on the number of physician licenses, physicians' mobility across state lines, telehealth adoption, and access to health care. We plan to use a difference-in-differences approach—comparing changes in our outcome variables of interest over time in non-IMLC states to changes in IMLC-states. In doing so, we hope to discover lessons that can be used to improve our understanding of how compacts work, and perhaps even to inform the future development of such compacts.

## Bios

*Abhay Aneja* works in the areas of labor economics, household finance, and antidiscrimination law. Starting in July 2019 he will be a Junior Fellow at the Center for Law, Economics, and Politics at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law; in 2020, he will begin as an Assistant Professor of Law. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Business at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, and is a graduate fellow at the Center for Equitable Growth. He has published papers in social science journals including the *American Law and Economics Review*, the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*. He received his J.D. from Stanford Law School, and his B.S. from Wake Forest University.

---

<sup>1</sup> Raven Molloy et al., *Declining Migration within the U.S.: The Role of the Labor Market*, NAT'L BUREAU OF ECON. RES., Working Paper No. 20065 (2014), <https://www.nber.org/papers/w20065.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> David Schleicher, *Stuck! The Law and Economics of Residential Stability*, 127 YALE L.J. 78, 119 (2017).

<sup>3</sup> Janna E. Johnson & Morris M. Kleiner, *Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?*, (Nat'l Bureau of Econ. Research, Working Paper No. 24107, 2017)

<sup>4</sup> *National Center for Interstate Compacts*, COUNCIL STATE GOV'TS, <http://apps.csg.org/ncic/> (last visited Sept. 22, 2017); Michael Ollove, *Make Doctor's Licenses Like Driver's Licenses? Medical Groups Say No*, PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS (Dec. 11, 2015), <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/12/11/make-doctors-licenses-like-drivers-licenses-medical-groups-say-no>.

<sup>5</sup> Humayun J. Chaudhry et al., *Improving Access and Mobility – The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact*, 372 NEW ENG. J MED. 1581 (2015).

*Gabe Scheffler* works primarily in the areas of health law and policy, administrative law, and occupational regulation. Starting in July 2019, he will be an Associate Professor at the University of Miami School of Law. He is currently a Regulation Fellow with the Penn Program on Regulation at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a Research Fellow with the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School. Previously, he served as a Staff Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers, where he worked on health care and labor market policy. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 2014, and his A.B. from Harvard College in 2009.