



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...
In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Paul. G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 17, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 523 – *Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community-based services, we **support** Senate Bill 523. The bill prohibits a professional board from denying a license to an immigrant, as defined in the bill, if the person otherwise meets all educational, training, and professional requirements for licensure.

As you know, Maryland is facing a critical health care worker shortage, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This shortage is affecting all industries, especially in the health care sector. Many health care providers, especially in long-term care, are not only competing with other health care providers to attract and retain employees but also retail and food establishments that can pay higher wages to employees. Maryland must implement initiatives that can increase the pool of qualified candidates.

Therefore, LifeSpan supports Senate Bill 523 as a reasonable approach that would allow additional individuals to become licensed or certified under the appropriate health occupation board. It is important to again emphasize that this bill does not dilute any requirements or standards that an individual must satisfy to become licensed or certified. It simply allows individuals to be considered for application who, under today's rules, are not currently permitted. For these reasons, LifeSpan urges a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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