



Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 523 – Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

Hearing Date: February 17, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*. The bill would prohibit an occupational board, including a health professional board, from denying a license based on immigration status.

MNA supports this legislation for three primary reasons:

- Licensure should be based on whether an individual has met Maryland’s requirements for education, experience, or training. Licensure requirements are entirely unrelated to an applicant’s immigration status;
- Immigrants add diversity to the workforce. In the health care arena, Maryland is striving to ensure the health care workforce reflects the communities being served; and
- Immigrants can help address workforce shortages. As the Committee is well-aware, the health care system is facing significant workforce shortages exacerbated by the pandemic. We need all individuals who meet Maryland licensure requirements serving in our health care programs and facilities.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.