



SB0523: Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants

Takoma Park Mobilization – Support

February 17, 2022

Chair Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Takoma Park Mobilization supports SB0523, which will allow Maryland residents to obtain professional or occupational licensure, without consideration of immigration status, if they meet all training and other state licensure requirements.

Takoma Park Mobilization (tpmobilization.org) is an advocacy organization with over 2,500 followers. We're active in climate action and other environmental concerns, immigration, police and justice reform, and economic equity concerns.

Expanding access to professional and occupational licensure will recognize the immense contribution that immigrants make to Maryland's economy. This legislation will advance equity and opportunity and strengthen our communities. It will allow all our neighbors to do the work they are capable of and earn commensurate pay.

Individuals who gain licensure under this bill will be better able to support themselves and their families, who will rely less on public and community resources. They will pay more in state income taxes, noting that in 2019, undocumented residents alone paid \$262.4 million in state and local taxes while working the lowest paying and most dangerous jobs.

Takoma Park Mobilization enthusiastically supports SB0523, which will advance equity and economic opportunity and boost state finances.

Please give SB0523 a favorable committee report and floor vote.

Submitted by Seth Grimes, seth.grimes@gmail.com