

# **SB523 Testimony EveryMind 2-17-22.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amse Heck

Position: FAV

2/17/2022

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

### *SB523 - Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants*

My name is Ann Mazur, and I am the Chief Executive Officer for EveryMind, a mental health nonprofit based in Rockville, Maryland. EveryMind has positively impacted the mental health and wellness of children, youth, adults, veterans, and families in Maryland for 65 years. As the largest provider of school-based mental health services in Montgomery County, a core center for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and one of seventeen centers across the nation for the Institute of Veteran and Military Families' AmericaServes, EveryMind has been committed to recruiting the best talent, serving as a training opportunity for Master of Social Work students, and offering multilingual mental health and human services to the residents of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, EveryMind saw a shortage of licensed mental health clinicians, case workers, and hotline specialists in the region, recruiting therapists from as far away as Florida. During the pandemic, the availability of talented, licensed professionals in the mental health and human services sector has shrunk. Competition is even fiercer for the limited pool of bi- and multilingual therapists.

Amidst this shortage, EveryMind invested heavily, doubling our HR department, bringing in HR interns, and increasing licensed staff salaries to keep up with competition and the steep rise in the market. This year alone, EveryMind increased spending by \$200,000 to bolster recruiting and increase therapist salaries by 15% to match the current nonprofit market rate. Therapist salaries across the region have risen due to the shortage of these professionals and the increase in demand. Nonprofit community mental health organizations like EveryMind simply cannot keep up with the salaries offered in the private sector and government sectors. As we work with our fellow nonprofits to address the urgent mental health needs of our community, it has become clear that the pipeline of students studying social work and mental health in the school system is not adequate to meet our State's needs for many years to come.

**EveryMind is pleased to support SB523—Occupations and Professions – License, Certificate, and Registration – Immigrants.** Maryland has a long history of being a national leader in suicide prevention, homeless outreach, and education, meeting the needs of a racially and ethnically diverse constituency. It is critical that the number of bi- and multi-lingual mental health clinicians

and case workers in our state grows to accommodate the demand. We can only do that if we look outside of our state, region, and country to recruit this vital talent workforce.

**EveryMind urges the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to pass SB523 to prohibit occupational or professional licensing board or other government agency in the State from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets certain require**

# **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Astrid Mendoza

Position: FAV

February 16th, 2022

Astrid Mendoza

Hyattsville, MD 20783

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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523**

“Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants”

To: Chair C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee

From: Ewaoluwa Ogundana

My name is Astrid Mendoza and I am a freshman Psychology major at the University of Maryland. I am also one of the 7,470 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. I was 2 years old when I arrived in the US so I have grown up as if I was born here. My parents did a good job of dealing with the legal details in private so I did not notice the difference until the time came to apply to college. As time passes, I am faced with more paralyzing truths about what it means to be undocumented regardless of whether I grew up in the US or not. Now attending University, I realized that I have a passion for helping others and am currently interested in attending medical school. Although I know of all of the barriers I may face due to my status, I still dream of this possibility. Just the thought of the SB523 Bill being passed brings me an indescribable excitement. I respectfully urge you to help me and thousands of others continue dreaming and some day even make our dreams our reality. Thank you for your time.

**SB0523\_Licenses\_Immigrants\_MLC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0523**  
**Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration -**  
**Immigrants**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kagan

**Committee:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0523 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland is home to a large immigrant population. Immigrants contribute to our society in many ways – they often take jobs that no one wants at substandard wages; they start new businesses; and they pay taxes. And yet, they are the target of discrimination in many ways, both covert and overt.

This bill would seek to prevent one method of discrimination against immigrants, which is denying them professional licenses or certificates or registrations in the fields and businesses they are otherwise qualified for. This form of discrimination must end.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

**SB0523 Letter of Support\_C.Maduforo.pdf**

Uploaded by: Chinonso Maduforo

Position: FAV



February 16, 2022

Chinonso Maduforo  
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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523**

“Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants”

**To:** Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**From:** Chinonso Maduforo

My name is Chinonso Maduforo from Prince George’s County. This testimony is in support of SB0523.

My family emigrated from Nigeria to the United States several years ago with hopes to build a better life. Most often, this is the case for many immigrants—the hope of a better future, a stable one. While my family was fortunate to complete the process of becoming U.S. citizens efficiently, this is not the case for many undocumented individuals.

It seems inconsistent that many of the bright individuals within this population are given the opportunity to pursue higher education but are often barred from advancing in some of the professional fields they’ve worked hard to enter due to licensing restrictions.

Much of what makes up the United States of America today was built upon the labor of people who left what they knew to pursue better, because they believed there was more out there for them and their families.

I have personally seen some of the undocumented immigrants I know push past the limitations they often face. These are our future civic leaders, engineers, inventors, healthcare professionals and so on, and I am confident that their contributions to the workforce would be advantageous for the state of Maryland.

In today’s workforce, there is much need for the innovation and work ethic many of these individuals carry, especially as demand increases for qualified professionals to fill essential roles that remain empty in this delicate time.

Therefore, I favorably support SB0523 and appeal to you to support it as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB0523\_FAV\_LifeSpan\_Occs. & Profs. - Lic., Cert.,**

Uploaded by: Danna Kauffman

Position: FAV



*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*

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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:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
410-244-7000

# **SB 523 - Occupations and Professions - Licenses Ce**

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hafey

Position: FAV

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

FROM: Elizabeth A. Hafey  
Associate Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 17, 2022

Johns Hopkins supports **SB523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants**. This bill prohibits a state occupational or professional licensing board or other governmental agency in the State from denying a license, certification, or registration based on immigration status. In other words, this bill would permit immigrants that are Maryland residents the opportunity to obtain professional or occupational licensure, given they meet all training and state licensure requirements for their occupation. Johns Hopkins is supportive of efforts that expand the healthcare workforce and access of care to its patients.

Johns Hopkins continues to experience workforce challenges. The pandemic has significantly strained and overwhelmed our health care system and our health care providers. Since the start of the pandemic, Johns Hopkins has vaccinated over 29,300 members within the community through mobile vaccinations, and tested over 5,000 residents at community centers tested. Our staff and health care workers have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic every day, while ensuring we continue to provide excellent care to our patients. This legislation, while not a panacea, provides some solutions to help mitigate these shortages. Expanding access to occupational licensure will provide relief to critical professions already facing labor shortages.

Johns Hopkins has always been dedicated to serving and supporting individuals regardless of immigration status. For example, Johns Hopkins runs programs such as The Access Partnership (“TAP”). That program provides access to effective, compassionate, evidence-based primary and specialty care for uninsurable residents of the East Baltimore community surround The Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center (JHBMC), with demonstrated financial need. TAP is the largest and most successful program in the state that provides access to primary and specialty care to the undocumented. From a staffing perspective, this program is frequently in need of bilingual clinicians within the community that may be able to be licensed with the passing of this bill.

Johns Hopkins remains steadfast in its enduring commitment to international students, researchers, and patients. The Johns Hopkins tripartite mission of research, education, and patient care is fueled by an academic community that includes more than 7,000 international

## Government and Community Affairs

students, faculty, and researchers, hailing from more than 120 nations. Immigrants grace every corner of our academic footprint, from our most senior leadership positions to resident halls, labs, classrooms, and hospitals. This is especially important as there is the workforce shortage, and Maryland should look to every resource to fill the need. Thus, Johns Hopkins recommends a **favorable report on SB523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants.**

**testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Sanabria

Position: FAV

## **Testimony in support of HB0533/HB0425**

Elizabeth Sanabria

February 17, 2022

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to share my testimony as an immigrant and to show support of House Bill 0533/0425, which would allow members of the community who lack legal documentation to be able to apply for and obtain selected practice licenses.

Here is a little bit of my story.

### ***Trying to shine, while living in the shadow***

First, let me tell you about myself, I'm originally from Peru, I'm a typical girl with big dreams. Nothing out of the ordinary, you might think, but what makes me different is that I'm an immigrant.

My story as an immigrant student began June 2003, when my parents, my sister and I immigrated from Peru to the United States. Since the moment we arrived at this country, we have worked really hard to get a better life and create better opportunities. However, this has not always been an easy task.

As an immigrant student, I had to overcome many obstacles. I was not only an immigrant; I was what many people are afraid to say "illegal". I have heard the phrase "If you only have your papers, I would ... hire you, give you a scholarship/financial aid, approve your credit, etc. so many times I have lost count. I have sat in classrooms without understanding a word, spend hours filling out applications, and rehearsing for interviews for jobs that I never got simply because of my immigration status, these were just a few between many other incidents in which my immigration status has held me back. When I first started college many of my friends did not support my decision, as they did not believe I was going to be able to ever work in a job that was related to my field of study due to my immigration status. However, that did not stop me from pursuing my dreams. I had to work really hard to be able to pay for university. I used to wake up at four in the morning in order to go to work and work fourteen hours per day during the summer in order to have enough money to pay for classes. I also got fired on the spot from my first job because of my immigration status and had to spend several months without a job. Getting accommodations in my schedule at work was also a no no, my boss believed she was already risking a lot by giving a job even though I was undocumented. Although I wanted to study and pursued a higher education, school had to come second. My class schedule had to adapt to my job and that put me behind so many times. Things were definitely not easy. There were moments in which I asked myself if I was doing the right thing. But now I know that I was, and I still am. My dedication, my passion for my career, and my motivation to success in life, have given me the strength to stay in school and keep perusing my dreams. And now I can say I did. I currently hold an associate degree in general studies, a bachelors' degree in Psychology, and a master's degree in social work. A few years ago, I was able to get deferred action, a status that opened doors that I didn't know existed before and an opportunity that has made me have a taste of many of my most desires wishes and dreams. A status which granted me an employment authorization card and relieved me from removal from the country, or from entering into removal proceedings. However, this is still not enough. Knowing that all this could end any minute and without me or



anybody involve being able to do anything about it is something that constantly runs through my head.

I used to be the one afraid to talk about my immigration status. I have used to see it as an identifier, and a negative label that would put me on a list of "foreigners", "intruder", "undesired", just to name a few. However, listening to the story of other immigrants has helped me realized that I'm not alone.

Everyday hundreds of immigrant's struggles with the "what if" my dreams were to end, or even worse "what if" my dreams of working in my chosen career will never begin. It's easy for us, immigrants to picture it, but what about others who simply have not had the same type of experience or know much about the issue?

I have decided to share my story not because I think it is unique, neither to fight, nor to judge others who think differently than myself, but my main purpose is so that others can start and continue the conversation about this issue. I have found sharing to be a way to put a face and a story to many immigrants that as myself have worked hard for this country, but who are now feeling voiceless and afraid of an uncertain future.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Sanabria

# **SB 523 Occupations and Professions- Licenses, Cert**

Uploaded by: Erin Dorrien

Position: FAV



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 17, 2022

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 523 - Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, Registration - Immigrants

Dear Chair Pinsky:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 523.

Hospitals in Maryland and across the nation faced staffing burdens even before the COVID-19 pandemic and this latest surge. Maryland hospitals now have over 3,900 nursing vacancies—a 50% jump since late August.

Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants comprise 52% of the Maryland hospital workforce but have employee turnover rates of nearly 10%, the highest rate among all staff categories. Nursing and medical positions (RNs, NPs, MDs, etc.) have employee vacancy rates of 25.4%—an increase of nearly 48% in 2021 alone. Overall hospital employee vacancies rose nearly 34% statewide in 2021.

This challenge is not unique to Maryland. The American Hospital Association reports job postings for nurses are up 45% nationwide since January 2020 and 41% for other clinical staff.<sup>[1]</sup> The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects 500,000 more nurses will leave the workforce this year—bringing the national shortage to 1.1 million nurses.<sup>[2]</sup>

These vacancies mean fewer caregivers at the bedside, limiting capacity to care for patients, both those with COVID-19 and those having other serious conditions such as cancer. SB 523 aims to ensure every qualified health care professional can obtain a license to practice in Maryland.

The health care workforce crisis was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, however it will continue long after the surges end. Any attempt to increase the number of health care professionals available in the state should be supported.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 523.

For more information, please contact:  
Erin Dorrien, Vice President, Policy  
Edorrien@mhaonline.org

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<sup>[1]</sup> American Hospital Association. (January, 2022). "[Data Brief: Workforce Issues Remain at the Forefront of Pandemic-related Challenges for Hospitals.](#)"

<sup>[2]</sup> American Nurses Association. (n.d.). "[Workforce.](#)"

**SB0523 Letter of Support-E.Ogundana.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ewaoluwa Ogundana

Position: FAV

February 16th, 2022

Ewaoluwa Ogundana  
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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0523

“Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants”

**To:** Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**From:** Ewaoluwa Ogundana

- I am a Public Policy graduate student at the University of Maryland College Park and I am also one of the 7,470 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients in Maryland, an immigration status that partially protects individuals who came to the U.S. as children.<sup>1</sup> This legislation will have a profound impact on the Maryland healthcare system, education system, and help the estimated 225,000 undocumented immigrants in the state if passed, and so I am asking the committee to give a favorable report on SB0523.<sup>2</sup>
- There are 13,000 other immigrants in Maryland who are eligible for DACA, but because Former President Trump ended the status in 2017 and a federal judge in Texas recently ruled that DACA was adopted illegally, a number of applications have been backlogged and no new applications have been accepted since July 2021.<sup>3 4</sup> As a result, these immigrants cannot obtain social security numbers which are needed to obtain licensure in Maryland in fields such as nursing, dentistry, medicine, accounting, etc. This legislation will help students like myself who have to deal with perpetual legal barriers towards our future education and career aspirations because there is no pathway to citizenship for our status.
- Passing this legislation will benefit Maryland in four significant ways:
  1. This legislation will alleviate the roadblocks to obtaining professional licenses and encourage more undocumented students to complete their education so that they do not resort to other fields just because those fields do not require licenses. It would be a loss to Maryland’s workforce if these students pursue other fields simply because the state bars them from obtaining professional licenses.

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<sup>1</sup> Migration Policy Institute. (2021). “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools.”

<sup>2</sup> Migration Policy Institute. (2019). “Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Maryland.”

<sup>3</sup> Migration Policy Institute. (2021). “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools.”

<sup>4</sup> Rodriguez, S., Gerstein, J. (2021). “Federal judge finds DACA unlawful, blocks new applicants,” Politico.

2. Almost 40% of Maryland's population hold jobs that require occupational licenses.<sup>5</sup> It is inconsistent to limit specific licenses from undocumented immigrants if the actual operation of that profession does not require citizenship. With this barrier in place, Maryland is not only limiting thousands of individuals from contributing to a workforce that is in dire need of help, but the state is indirectly also contributing to the community college enrollment decline propagated by the pandemic because these students discontinue their education.<sup>6</sup>
  3. Maryland already allows eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates at any state college and university.<sup>7</sup> And since 2019, the state has allowed eligible Maryland students, including those who are undocumented, to attend community college tuition-free under its Community College Promise Scholarship Program.<sup>8</sup> Passing this legislation will be consistent with past comprehensive policies that have helped undocumented immigrants thus far in the state.
  4. Lastly, with COVID-19 surges and staff shortages in hospitals across the state, this legislation could also bring relief to Maryland's healthcare systems as more immigrants could obtain the necessary licenses to become healthcare professionals and continue the fight against COVID-19.<sup>9</sup>
- Overall, this legislation would give more undocumented students an incentive to finish their education, integrate into the professional sector, and make fuller contributions towards Maryland's community and economy. I respectfully urge the committee to give SB0523 a favorable report.

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020). "May 2020 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates," United States Department of Labor.

<sup>6</sup> National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. (2021). "Eight Percent Drop in Undergraduate Students Since Fall 2019; Community Colleges Lost 15 Percent of Students in Two Years."

<sup>7</sup> Maryland In-State Tuition Referendum passed in 2012

<sup>8</sup> Maryland Higher Education Commission Community College Promise Scholarship created in 2019

<sup>9</sup> Domen, J. (2021). "COVID-19 surge pushes a Maryland health system into 'contingency protocol,'" WTOP News.

**CASA\_FAV\_SB523.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: George Escobar

Position: FAV

## **SB 523 SUPPORT**

### **Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants**

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 15th, 2022

Dear Chair Pinsky, and Members of the EHE Affairs Committee:

On behalf of CASA, and its more than 100,000 members residing in the state of Maryland, we would like to express our full **support for SB 523** as it seeks to prohibit restrictions that may bar any trained, qualified or otherwise eligible professional from obtaining a State issued occupational or professional license solely due to their current immigration status.

CASA is the Mid-Atlantic region's foremost immigrant advocacy and services organization, annually providing over 20,000 Maryland residents with a variety of services in employment, education, legal, health and social services case management and navigation. It is through our education and workforce development work in particular that we are made acutely aware of the inequities and barriers experienced by certain classes of immigrants in their journeys to better their educational and professional opportunities and outcomes. Thousands of CASA members who have graduated from our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction courses, participated in our employment program or graduated from our vocational training courses have come to realize that despite holding certifications and/or licenses from their home country, improving their English proficiency, and even after graduating from any specialized or certified training in the US, they are not still not able to obtain a professional license in Maryland for which they would otherwise be qualified, due to their immigration status.

Certainly this is not an issue unique to Maryland. A 2019 study revealed that despite the fact that over 45% of recently arrived immigrants hold a bachelor's degree, over 2 million immigrants and refugees nationwide with degrees and professional work experience from their home countries are underemployed, largely working low wage jobs. This at a time when nationally, approximately 11 million jobs sit vacant. This is why 17 states have already passed legislation to allow non-citizens access to at least some number of professional licenses. While 5 states, including California, Illinois and New Jersey provide full access to undocumented immigrants to professional licenses, other states as varied as Utah, Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota have passed laws to allow access for non-citizens to certain professional



licenses. Such is the need for qualified workers to fill critical vacancies in industries such as finance, construction and especially healthcare. In Maryland in particular, the shortage of nurses has reached alarming levels due to COVID related burnout. Beyond nursing specifically, a cursory review of State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that nearly 40% of all occupations listed in Maryland require some sort of professional license. This all points to a systemic barrier that artificially impedes the advancement of a critical part of our trained workforce, while simultaneously stunting the potential of a growing tax base.

Immigrant households in Maryland already contribute approximately \$12.2 Billion in taxes annually according to the New American Economy Research Fund, which also reports that more than 20% of Maryland's Foreign Born population holds a bachelor's degree and more than 21% of its Foreign-Born population holds a graduate degree, a rate that is higher than that found in the US Born population.

There is no doubt Maryland should be lauded for such efforts as making college more accessible for undocumented immigrants, beginning in 2011 through the Maryland DREAM ACT, through subsequent initiatives that this body has taken to improve upon on that initiative as well as the steps taken just last legislative session to allow undocumented tax payers access to the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits. Now, we ask this body to take the next logical step – unleash the earning and tax paying potential of all Maryland residents by allowing access to professional licenses for all trained and qualified individuals regardless of immigration status. Doing so would not only contribute to boosting the economy, but it would promote economic self-sufficiency within immigrant communities, reducing the need for tax credits and allow the state a greater return on the investment made in the education of immigrant youth.

We urge a favorable report on SB 523.

Respectfully,



George Escobar

Chief of Programs and Services

# **SB523\_IOkonkwo2\_Fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ijeoma Okonkwo

Position: FAV

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523

From: *Ijeoma Okonkwo – In favor of SB523*

*To: Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee*

At this point, it is clear that there is a severe shortage healthcare worker. This shortage has been further exacerbated by the current Pandemic we are experiencing. During this Pandemic, America, much like other countries around the world have termed their healthcare workers “Super Heroes.” This bill presents a great opportunity to show them the support the nation has theorized. Consequently, I write this letter to support the bill mentioned above for the following reasons.

- As a practicing health professional, I feel the need for more licensed professional on a daily basis. From receiving emails about open shifts that need covered, to working while short staffed. I can mention a few reasons why these are undesirable, with the most important one being patient outcome. When staff are overburdened, there is an increased risk for negative patient outcome, every clinician understands this. Passing this bill will allow more licensed healthcare practitioners to join work force and provide the much-needed relief for overworked healthcare workers.
- Furthermore, it is noteworthy to mention that the professionals in question here have been trained by American Academic system. Therefore, we can attest to the quality of the education they have received. They have attended American Accredited schools and programs, which qualifies them for board certification exams. Majority of these professional programs have very strict requirements for their criminal records. So, one can appreciate that these individuals are generally Law-Abiding citizens and responsible members of our society. It is also important to mention that these immigrants often had to attain certain Grade Point Average (GPA) to receive admission, and maintain those GPAs while in these professional programs up to the point of graduation. They have also passed board exams which attests to their individual excellence. Thus, one can infer that these are very intelligent students and potentially excellent talents that have not been given the opportunity to shine.
- In addition, immigrants who are allowed to practice in the capacity of their licenses will also be able to contribute towards the economic development of America, not just by utilizing their talents in moving our industries forward, but also financially. If allowed to obtain licensure, these individuals will be practicing in decent income earning professions. This will allow them to contribute their fair share to the growth of our economy.

For these reasons I ask these committee to thoroughly review the components of **SB523**, consider ways it can improve the life of the American people and to pass the bill.

# **SB 523 Support\_Janelle\_Wong.pdf**

Uploaded by: Janelle Wong

Position: FAV

## **Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

### **SB 523**

#### **Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants**

##### **Testimony from Janelle Wong (Bethesda, MD)**

I submit this testimony as a state resident, teacher, and scholar of immigration and Asian American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

This legislation prohibits a State occupational or professional licensing board or other government agency in the State from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets certain requirements.

As my University of Maryland Colleague Ewaoluwa Ogundana has written in a policy analysis post for *New America*, the state of Maryland provides some critical avenues to education for undocumented immigrants via the Maryland DREAM Act. However, it also constrains many of those very same students once they complete their education by barring them from obtaining the professional licenses necessary to practice in their fields.

This is against the state's ethical and economic interests. As Ogundana's research shows, nearly a quarter of occupations require some kind of license. Many workers in the state are only able to provide services as a result of meeting licensing requirements. Without the ability to obtain professional licenses, too many workers in our state will have the qualifications necessary to serve our populations' needs in terms of medical care, dental care and other critical contributions, but not be able to put their training into practice to benefit our state residents.

As an educator and a state resident, I strongly SUPPORT SB 523

# **HFAM Testimony SB 523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

February 17, 2022

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

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 523. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

Senate Bill 523 prohibits a State occupational or professional licensing board or other government agency in the State from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets certain requirements.

Workforce challenges such as recruitment and retention have long existed in health care, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have only grown worse over the last two years and they will likely remain even as we begin to navigate a post-pandemic world.

Healthcare across all settings is a people-helping-people enterprise. That is especially true in long-term and post-acute care settings such as skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers, assisted living campuses, continuing care retirement communities, and adult day centers.

We are in a healthcare workforce crisis and there is a shortage of workers in all roles ranging from physician to nursing assistant. The workforce shortage predates the COVID-19 pandemic and was driven by specific issues mostly related to education and training. In 2021 the Maryland Board of Nursing reported that 40,000 licensed individuals in Maryland had chosen not to renew their professional license.

As mentioned, the pressures of the pandemic dramatically worsened the workforce shortage. The most recent surge proved to us yet again that there is no individual hospital, nursing home, or physician's office workforce. There is one healthcare workforce in Maryland—and it is shorthanded.

We need all the caring hearts and trained hands we can get in healthcare. Current immigration status should not be a limiting factor in that.

Together going forward, we must be intentional about creating quality healthcare jobs and growing careers focused specifically on underserved communities and hiring our residents and citizens. We must also acknowledge that there are countless examples demonstrating that immigrants are the backbone that built much of this country, including in healthcare.

(more)

Immigrants play a critical role in providing care for our most vulnerable citizens. According to PHI, the nation's leading authority on the direct care workforce, one in four direct care workers is an immigrant. Further, the total number of immigrants in direct care positions continues to grow, with an estimated 65 percent increase between 2005 and 2015.

Across care settings in Maryland and throughout the country, we fought the most recent surge of the virus with fewer people working in healthcare, and particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Still, direct hours of care provided to Marylanders in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers actually increased.

As we plan our long-term "new normal" in healthcare, we are placing considerable attention on how on-the-job training, apprenticeship, education, and experience can overlap to produce more licensed professionals in our setting. Underserved communities and immigrants will be key.

**For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 523.**

*Submitted by:*

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.  
President and CEO  
(410) 290-5132



# **Vogel Licensure Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph Vogel

Position: FAV



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

Last week, I visited the Career Readiness Education Academy (CREA) evening program at Thomas Edison High School of Technology in Silver Spring, MD. The program serves students over the age of 18, who are unlikely to complete their academic requirements by the age of 21. Students in CREA receive GED preparation classes and specialize in a career pathway; with options ranging from HVAC contractor to cosmetology. Students in this program are predominantly Latino immigrants to the United States, some are undocumented.

The students who are part of this program spend their days working in restaurants, painting houses, or repairing cars. After a full day of work, they take the bus to Thomas Edison High School where they sit through hours of classes and training. The passion in those classrooms is palpable. It is their own drive, and the encouragement of their inspiring educators, that brings them back to the school every single day. This program is their ticket to good jobs, a fulfilling career, and economic prosperity. I met with a student in the nail tech program, who showed me with great pride how much she had learned over the course of her time in the class.

Students in the CREA program work diligently to complete their GED, and receive a professional certification for their selected industry. It is heartbreaking to know that because of discriminatory practices in our occupation licensure process, that some of these dedicated students will be ineligible to receive the authorization necessary to practice their desired profession. The same challenges apply to DACA recipients who dream of being teachers, those with temporary protected status who aspire to be attorneys, and the many highly-educated and dedicated Marylanders who remain undocumented yet want to serve their communities.

66% of DREAM scholars are pursuing a career that requires a license, including doctors, nurses, and lawyers. Over 130 professions in Maryland, including some of the professions CREA students aspire to, require a license. Without this license they are unable to advance in their careers, despite having diligently studied and spent years preparing. This is unfair and harmful to the state of our economy – especially as we face a drastic labor shortage.

Our hospitals are critically understaffed. Passage of this bill could create a pipeline for new dedicated and educated professionals to fully enter the labor force. We could ease the strain on hospitals as we continue to battle this pandemic and increase the mental health providers to address the mental health crisis in our state.

I urge the committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 523.

**Joe Vogel**  
Joe@JoeVogel.org

**SB 523 MoCo- (GA2022) SUPPORT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550**

**ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

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**SB 523**

**DATE: February 16, 2022**

**SPONSOR: Senator Kagan**

**ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

**CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### **Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants**

Senate Bill 523 would prohibit a State occupational or professional licensing board from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual otherwise meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration.

In Maryland, it is all too common that immigrants making their home here have attained a high degree of educational and professional achievement but are under-employed and not utilizing their experience in the fields in which they are trained. One barrier for immigrant residents to fully participating in the workforce and employing their training is the requirement that some occupational licenses from the State are contingent on citizenship of the United States. Senate Bill 523 would ensure that citizenship in the United States is not a requirement for seeking an occupational or professional license in Maryland.

Montgomery County values the contributions of our immigrant residents to our workforce and communities and sees tremendous benefit to removing barriers to licensure for those seeking occupational licenses as well as those who will receive the services of a more linguistically and culturally appropriate workforce. Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report.

# **SB0523\_Professional Licensure for Immigrants\_FAVOR**

Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio

Position: FAV



# Indivisible: Central Maryland

**Susan Radke, Lead Advocate**

[Dsusan56@gmail.com](mailto:Dsusan56@gmail.com)

**Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate**

[lenagonio@icloud.com](mailto:lenagonio@icloud.com)

## TESTIMONY FOR SB0523

### Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kagan

**Committee:** Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

**Organization Submitting:** Indivisible Central Maryland

**Person Submitting:** Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate

**Position:** FAVORABLE

My name is Liz Enagonio, representing both myself and Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. **Indivisible Central Maryland strongly supports SB0523.**

You have seen and heard other testimony today that lays out the data regarding immigrant workers in Maryland: that one in five workers in Maryland is an immigrant; that more than 30% of immigrants 25 years and older have a bachelor's degree or higher; that many of these people are working non-professional, low wage jobs due to inability to obtain professional licensure. The increase in wages that would result from fully employing trained immigrant professionals could add millions of dollars in tax revenue.

So instead of repeating data, please allow me to tell a personal story of my friends from Guatemala who were granted asylum here in Maryland after being threatened at home with murder and the murder of their family members.

It's a tale of a Dad, his wife, and two little children who were financially successful in Guatemala. Dad has a bachelor's degree in music and a master's degree in education. He was a music teacher in the school system in Guatemala, and he organized and conducted a youth community band. On weekends, he was an audio engineer. He also played trumpet, piano and guitar in a band. Because of his financial success, he was targeted by gangs, who threatened to murder him and his family if he did not pay a large sum. A friend was murdered, and the friend's body left as a warning in front of this Dad's home. Dad and his family came to the border in Texas, seeking asylum. Dad was found to have a credible fear, and was granted asylum.

So here we have in Maryland a skilled teacher, with experience teaching multiple age groups. However, due to licensure laws promulgated by the federal government, he has not been able to translate his teaching degree from Guatemala to a teaching position here. He is currently working

construction. Yes, we need his skills there for sure, but he would have a greater opportunity to advance and to provide for his family if he had the opportunity to seek teaching opportunities. Granting professional licenses to immigrants such as this Dad would enable them to become self-sufficient and participate in the economic development of their communities.

Similarly, one of his sisters, who also resides here in Maryland, had an early childhood education certification in Guatemala. She now works at a fast food restaurant. What a waste of her talent and experience, when she could be in a career where we are short of highly qualified and experienced workers. Granting professional licenses to immigrants would allow employers to fill jobs and enable immigrants such as this woman to contribute their skills to the state's workforce.

For all these reasons, Indivisible Central Maryland strongly **SUPPORTS SB0523**. Thank you.

# **SB523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Luz Chavez Gonzales

Position: FAV



February 16th, 2022  
Luz Chavez Gonzales  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
[luzchavez0804@gmail.com](mailto:luzchavez0804@gmail.com)/ 240-380-4473

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523**

To: Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee"  
From: Luz Chavez Gonzales

My name is Luz Chavez Gonzales, I am a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient. I migrated to the U.S. from La Paz, Bolivia with my parents when I was 4 years old. But, growing up, I didn't know I was undocumented. I was introduced to the immigration movement at a very young age due to the involvement of my older cousin. I was only nine years old when I went to my first immigration reform march. By the time I was fourteen, I had joined her in actions on Capitol Hill, going to congressional offices to advocate for a comprehensive immigration reform.

For a long time, I knew my aunt and uncle were undocumented, and I grew up going to these actions with the intention of showing my support. It wasn't until I was 16 that I learned that I was also undocumented. I remember the day my parents took me to a lawyer to apply for DACA. Initially, I didn't know what I was applying for, but midway through the process I stopped and asked. That's when my parents pulled me aside and told me that we were undocumented. At that moment, I felt alone and afraid because I realized that any small mistake would jeopardize the safety of my family. I later felt the consequences of my status in my journey towards higher education.

My story as an undocumented student going through the college process wasn't straightforward, and the lack of support I received was something I always look back at. I graduated from community college in 2019 and became a National Dream.US scholar. Through that, I eventually became the first in my family to graduate from college and received my bachelors degree in Sociology and a minor in Political Science. My intention was always to become a policy maker or even a lawyer one day. It wasn't until then I realized that due to my status, I wouldn't be eligible for a professional license if I were to

become a lawyer. **SB523** would change my life and the lives of so many other undocumented youth and young adults from achieving their potential and dreams in higher ed. I know far too many people I've interacted with that have felt the struggle of changing their career paths due to this restriction. Which is why I respectfully urge the committee to pass **SB523** and give it a favorable report.

# **SB523 - Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Ce**

Uploaded by: Martha Nathanson

Position: FAV



## CARE BRAVELY

SB523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants  
House Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – February 17, 2022  
Testimony of Martha D. Nathanson, Esq., Vice President, Government Relations and Community  
Development LifeBridge Health  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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I am writing in SUPPORT of SB523. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County, and; Grace Medical Center in Baltimore (formerly Bon Secours Hospital).

Hospitals in Maryland and across the nation faced staffing burdens even before the COVID-19 pandemic and this latest surge. Maryland hospitals now have over 3,900 nursing vacancies—a 50% jump since late August.

More specifically for LifeBridge Health institutions, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants comprise 40% of our workforce. These categories have experienced employee turnover rates of nearly 28%, one of the highest rates among all staff categories, compared to a combined turnover rate in all other categories of 22%. Nursing and medical provider positions (RNs, NPs, MDs, etc.) have employee vacancy rates of 26% as of 1/31/2022—an increase of 10% since 2/1/2021. Overall hospital employee vacancies rose nearly 6% throughout our system over the past year, one of the highest rates of increase in recent years.

These vacancies mean fewer caregivers at the bedside, limiting capacity to care for patients, both those with COVID-19 and those having other serious conditions such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes as well as surgical patients. SB523 aims to ensure every qualified health care professional can obtain a license to practice in Maryland and we welcome the opportunity to hire all qualified applicants at LifeBridge Health.

The current spike in health care workforce challenges that has led to this crisis predated the COVID pandemic, and this spike was further exacerbated during COVID. Unfortunately, our projections indicate that these challenges will continue long after the recent and future “surge” periods. Therefore, we support any reasonable means to increase the number of health care professionals available in the state, and we view this proposal as “low hanging fruit” in this process.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB523.

Contact: Martha D. Nathanson, Esq.  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development  
[mnathans@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:mnathans@lifebridgehealth.org)  
Mobile: 443-286-4812

**SB0523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ninfa Amador-Hernandez

Position: FAV

## Testimony in Support of SB 0523

February 16, 2022

Ninfa Amador-Hernandez  
8205 Washington Blvd Lot 20  
Jessup, MD 20794

TO: Chair Pinsky, Vice-chair Kagan, and Members of the Educational, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: In Support of SB 0523

FROM: Ninfa Amador-Hernandez, undergraduate student

Dear Chair, Vice-chair and committee members,

My name is Ninfa Amador-Hernandez and I am writing to you to express my interest in and support of this legislation, SB0523- Occupations and Professions, Licenses, Certificates, and Registration for Marylanders. According to the Vera Institute of Justice, immigrants make up 15% of the total population in Maryland<sup>1</sup>. Undocumented immigrants make up about 29% of the total immigrant population<sup>2</sup>. One in four children in Maryland has at least one immigrant parent. More than 75% of immigrants are in the labor force making about one in five members of the state's labor force an immigrant. Immigrants households earned about \$35.5B and contributed about \$3.3B in state and local taxes. Number don't lie. As you can see, the immigrant population is a powerful force in business and in Maryland's economy. However, currently, there are laws in place that are prohibiting Maryland residents from earning more or being able to fully and actively participate in the state's economic development. Every year about 2,000 undocumented high school students graduate and decide not to seek higher education because of the restrictive measures of a higher education<sup>3</sup>. About 10,000 undocumented student are enrolled in higher education through the provision granted under section 15-106.8 of the MD Education Article, and have received professional degrees. These Marylanders have been nurtured by the state's public school system from elementary school through college, however will be unable to join the workforce and use their talents to further the state's economic and cultural development.

### Supporting SB0523 would

- **Improve the lives of every child of an immigrant family and household**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/profile-foreign-born-population-baltimore.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-maryland>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/state/maryland/>

- **Improve the state's economic development**
- **Improve basic living standards for educated and professional workers without immigration status but with all the qualifications needed to enter the workforce**
- **Close the gap between white students and minority students at the higher education level**

This bill, SB0523, would allow thousands of immigrant professionals the opportunity to support their local communities and their families. Being licensed by the state would allow these workers to have a better quality of life through stable employment which would propel the next generation of Marylanders to have better living standards and livelihoods.

I was educated in the Maryland public school system through elementary school, however, due to a lack of opportunities for my family, I moved to Virginia when I was 10 and finished the rest of my public education in Virginia. By the time I had graduated high school, I saw many more opportunities here in Maryland, compared to Virginia. Maryland is a welcoming state and its previous policies towards inclusion and development have allowed it to flourish, however, if we do not keep the momentum going, Maryland will lose valuable asset-its immigrant professionals- just like my family decided to leave.

I am a 22-year-old undergraduate student, resident of Maryland, studying at an out-of-state institution. I have called Maryland home for the past 4 years and would like to keep living here and develop my professional career regardless of my immigration. I am qualifying myself through my education to succeed in my field, **please support SB 0523 so that many more young professionals like myself can thrive, uplift our communities, and support our state economy.**

Sincerely,

*Ninfa Amador-Hernandez*

Ninfa Amador-Hernandez  
804-836-7988

**LWVMD- SB 0523- Immigrant Licensure .pdf**

Uploaded by: Nora Miller Smith

Position: FAV





**TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SB 0523: Occupations and Professions- Licenses, Certificates, and Registration- Immigrants**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Nancy Soreng, President**

**DATE: February 17, 2022**

The League of Women Voters Maryland supports **SB 523: Occupations and Professions- Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations- Immigrants**. This bill would allow all qualified students to obtain professional and occupational licenses, regardless of their documentation status.

The League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity. Without the ability to obtain professional licenses, undocumented immigrants will be hampered in their ability to be productive parts of our society.

At present, Maryland supports the education of eligible undocumented students by allowing them to attend community college tuition-free, and to pay in-state tuition rates at state colleges and universities. **However, without a social security number, these students are unable to obtain professional licensure in Maryland**, thus limiting both their ability to advance in their profession, and to assist in meeting the growing workforce needs in our state.

There are roughly 10,000 undocumented students enrolled in higher education institutions in our state, and most pursue fields that require some type of licensure. But those who are studying for a career as a Certified Nursing Assistant, for example, must move to another state in order to obtain certification and a job; Maryland has barred students from obtaining CNA certification if they do not have a social security number.

In 2020, 1.4 million people living in Maryland were age 60 or older, and that number is projected to rise to 1.7 million people by 2030. The healthcare needs of our rapidly aging population will continue to grow, and the available workforce to meet those needs must also grow.

Maryland already has a severe healthcare labor shortage, and it is expected to worsen. Substantial numbers of workers left the healthcare field during the pandemic, and our growing aging population makes that labor shortage even more urgent. Passage of Senate Bill 523 will enable undocumented students to obtain the certification that will enable them to work and advance in their chosen profession, and to remain in our state while doing so.

**The League urges the committee to give a favorable report to SENATE BILL 523.**

**TNTP Letter of Support- Maryland SB 523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rosario Quiroz Villarreal

Position: FAV

February 16, 2022

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
2 West Wing  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 523**

On behalf of TNTP, a national non-profit organization that partners with school systems to help them achieve their goals for students, I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of S.B. 523.

TNTP's mission is to end the injustice of educational inequality by providing excellent teachers to the students who need them most and by advancing policies and practices that ensure effective teaching in every classroom. We prioritize the work we do because of the overwhelming evidence that shows excellent teachers can put even students facing considerable challenges on track for success. We are invested in improved educational outcomes in Maryland, where we have operated the Baltimore City Teaching Residency (BCTR) since 2002, training over 2,500 teachers for schools in Baltimore<sup>1</sup>. In the past four years, 184 of our teachers, accounting for 60 percent of Teaching Residents, have identified as educators of color. BCTR teachers represent 1 in every 10 teachers in Baltimore City Schools and have reached over 380,000 students. This impact can be expanded to be inclusive of the strengths and assets of the immigrant community across Maryland with the passage of this bill at a moment when the education system is facing critical teacher shortages. Simultaneously, TNTP is experiencing new challenges recruiting teachers into the program to meet the needs of the city's students. Passing this bill will mean more adults who are representative of Maryland's student population and connected to their community could be on a pathway to become teachers, addressing the critical issue of teacher shortages facing communities across Maryland.

Research shows that highly effective teachers have a lifelong impact on students, boosting college attendance and future earnings. Other studies show that students of color who have teachers of the same race are more likely to be referred to gifted programs<sup>2</sup>, less likely to be suspended, and more likely to achieve at higher levels<sup>3</sup>. But students of color, students experiencing poverty, students with learning and thinking differences, and multilingual learners—all of whom bring tremendous gifts to their classrooms, but who are too often disadvantaged in our current education system—are least likely to get access to excellent teachers<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, students of immigrant backgrounds are

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Baltimore City Teaching Residency, visit <https://tntpteachingfellows.org/baltimore>.

<sup>2</sup> Grissom, J., Rodriguez, L., and Kern, E. (2017). Teacher and Principal Diversity and the Representation of Students of Color in Gifted Programs: Evidence from National Data. *The Elementary School Journal*, 117:3, 396-422.

<sup>3</sup> Egalite, E.J., Kisida, B., Winters, M.A. (2014). Representation in the classroom: The effect of own-race/ethnicity teacher assignment on student achievement. Program on Education Policy and Governance Working Paper Series 14 (07); Gershenson, S., Holt, S. B., & Papageorge, N. W. (2016). Who believes in me? The effect of student-teacher demographic match on teacher expectations. *Economics of Education Review*, 52, 209-224.

<sup>4</sup> TNTP. (2018). The Opportunity Myth. <https://tntp.org/publications/view/the-opportunity-myth>.

overrepresented among each of those student populations facing obstacles to quality teaching<sup>5</sup>. Immigrant communities also face barriers related to citizenship that can keep caring adults who mirror students' experiences from becoming certified and effective teachers who can support Maryland's education system in increasing access to culturally and linguistically responsive classrooms and practices that will improve outcomes for these students.

We believe this bill has the potential to address the educational inequities faced by children of immigrant backgrounds by recognizing that immigrants are an asset to the state and removing a barrier that keeps them from seeking a career as a teacher. We urge the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to move it forward. We see Maryland's education system stand to gain in two significant ways from this bill:

- 1. Improve academic and career outcomes for immigrant children:** Research has found that when undocumented youth have access to higher education and professional career opportunities, their persistence in their academic journey increases and outcomes improve<sup>6</sup>. Maryland is already helping protect the aspirations of undocumented immigrant youth by ensuring access to in-state tuition<sup>7</sup>, in-state financial aid<sup>8</sup>, and tuition-free community college<sup>9</sup>. Ensuring these students are not then barred from applying their education to seek professional licenses based solely on immigration status is a logical next step that will help the state retain the talent it has already invested in, while providing a path to socioeconomic mobility for immigrant youth. Maryland's investment in higher education coupled with the national Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program helped position the 7,470 DACA recipients<sup>10</sup> across the state to contribute to their communities across professions by providing them with the prerequisite educational qualifications and a social security number, which are often the first of multiple barriers to professional licensure. In 2021, the U.S. District Court's decision overturning DACA<sup>11</sup> shut the door to 2-year work permits and stays from deportation to a cohort of young undocumented teenagers between the ages of 13-17 who would have been eligible for the program, an estimated 8,000<sup>12</sup> of whom call Maryland home. They deserve to be met with opportunity and hope for the future, not dismay and despair because of laws that exclude them.

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<sup>5</sup> Jargowsky, P. A. (2009). Immigrants and neighbourhoods of concentrated poverty: assimilation or stagnation?. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 35(7), 1129-1151. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691830903006150>.

<sup>6</sup> Ngo, F., & Astudillo, S. (2019). California DREAM: The impact of financial aid for undocumented community college students. *Educational Researcher*, 48(1), 5-18. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.3102/0013189X18800047>.

<sup>7</sup> MD Educ Code § 15-106.8- Exemption from nonresident tuition for qualified children of undocumented immigrants.

<sup>8</sup> Maryland Higher Education Commission. (2022). FAQs for the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA). <https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/MSFAA-FAQS.aspx>.

<sup>9</sup> Maryland Higher Education Commission. (2022). Community College Promise Scholarship. [https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog\\_MDCommunityCollegePromiseScholarship.aspx](https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_MDCommunityCollegePromiseScholarship.aspx).

<sup>10</sup> Migration Policy Institute. (2021). Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>

<sup>11</sup> State v. United States, Civil Action 1:18-CV-00068 (S.D. Tex. Jul. 16, 2021)

<sup>12</sup> Migration Policy Institute. (2019). Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Maryland. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/MD>.

- 2. Address teacher shortages by creating an additional pool of diverse teacher candidates:** For the 2021-2022 school year, Maryland reported teacher shortages across 25 different subject matters, disciplines, and/or grades. Teacher shortages have been further exacerbated in the past few months and attending to those shortages is necessary for continued trust and functioning of Maryland's education system. Intentionally thinking through how to address those shortages by providing a diverse educator workforce can help drive the gains and provide the support students need. In February 2021, TNTP, together with The Hunt Institute, Latinos for Education, New Leaders, Teach Plus, EdTrust, The Center for Black Educator Development, and Men of Color in Education Leadership, formed a coalition dedicated to closing the educator diversity gap by 2030. Individually, our organizations have long worked to improve educator diversity and garnered modest wins along the way. The slow rate of progress on the issue has compelled us to come together to organize this effort, including in Maryland. Within the state, Black students account for over 1 in 3 students, yet Black teachers represent only 17 percent of the teacher workforce. Even more pronounced, the discrepancy in representation between Latinx students (16 percent) and Latinx educators (3 percent) means that over 31,000 Latinx students are attending schools without a single teacher who reflects their experience in their K-12 education. Significantly improving racial and ethnic teacher recruitment and retention requires looking to and better understanding the pathways and barriers to the classroom for teacher candidates of color. Addressing immigration status as a barrier to licensure for educators of color in Maryland is critical, especially given that of the over 900,000 foreign-born individuals in Maryland, 24 percent identify as Black, and 32 percent identify as Latinx. Nearly half of them are not yet citizens, but they could be part of the puzzle towards ensuring the educator workforce reflects the true diversity of Maryland's students.

We believe the comprehensive efforts required by this bill are an important codification and continuation of Maryland's efforts to improve outcomes for students regardless of immigration status. It would also be an important step towards leveraging the immigrant community as an asset by enabling schools to source educators who reflect and represent the diversity of Maryland's student population. In short, S.B. 523 will keep aspirations alive for immigrant youth in Maryland and support the state's efforts to diversify its educator workforce, helping to ensure a more equitable education.

Sincerely,



Tequilla Brownie, Ed.D.

**2022 ACNM SB 523 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FAV



**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

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*. The bill would prohibit a licensure board, including those for health professionals, from denying a license based on immigration status.

ACNM supports licensure and certification requirements that are related to ensuring the competency of health care practitioners. Immigration status has no bearing on the determination of whether a practitioner is competent. We, therefore, support the bill's underlying premise that it should not be used in licensure decisions.

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

**2022 MNA SB 523 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FAV





**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

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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](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

# **List of MD Licensed Professions.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV



## CareerOneStop License Finder Results

We found **163** licenses in **Maryland**.

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
ACUPUNCTURIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4766		<a href="http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bacc">http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bacc</a>
Adviser / All LOAs	Maryland Insurance Administration				<a href="http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/">http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/</a>
Allergists and Immunologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Anesthesiologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
APPRAISER TRAINEE	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Appraisers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6165		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
APPRENTICE BARBER	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentaltesting.net">http://www.continentaltesting.net</a>
ARCHITECT	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Architects	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6261		<a href="https://www.ncarb.org/get-licensed/licensure-basics">https://www.ncarb.org/get-licensed/licensure-basics</a>
Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
Asbestos Designer	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
Asbestos Inspector	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
Asbestos Management Planner	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Asbestos Worker	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
Athletic Trainers	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
ATTORNEY (LAWYER)	State Board of Law Examiners	251 Rowe Boulevard, 3rd floor Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 260 1975		<a href="http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/index.html">http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/index.html</a>
Auctioneers	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
AUDIOLOGIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Audiology/Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech~and Language Pathologists	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4723		<a href="http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/boardsahs">http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/boardsahs</a>
BARBER	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentalesting.net">http://www.continentalesting.net</a>
BAY PILOT	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Bay Pilots	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6263		<a href="http://www.dlrr.state.md.us/license/">http://www.dlrr.state.md.us/license/</a>
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for Professional Engineer	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6260		<a href="http://www.dlrr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dlrr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
BLASTER	Office of the State Fire Marshal~Bomb Squad	P.O. Box 28903, BWI Airport, , MD 21240	(410) 859 7152		
BUS DRIVER, SCHOOL	Motor Vehicle Administration	6601 Ritchie Highway, NE Glen Burnie , MD 21602	(800) 950 1682		<a href="http://www.mva.state.md.us">http://www.mva.state.md.us</a>
BUS DRIVER, TRANSIT AND INTERCITY	Motor Vehicle Administration	6601 Ritchie Highway, NE Glen Burnie , MD 21602	(800) 950 1682		<a href="http://www.mva.state.md.us">http://www.mva.state.md.us</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
CERTIFIED GENERAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Appraisers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6165		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT	Maryland Department of Labor	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6258		<a href="http://www.aicpa.org">http://www.aicpa.org</a>
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELOR	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4732		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bopc">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bopc</a>
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for Professional Engineer	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6260		<a href="http://www.dlr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dlr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
CHIROPRACTOR	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Chiropractic Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4726		<a href="http://www.mdchiro.org">http://www.mdchiro.org</a>
CHIROPRACTOR ASSISTANT	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Chiropractic Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4726		<a href="http://www.mdchiro.org">http://www.mdchiro.org</a>
CIVIL ENGINEERS	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for Professional Engineer	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6260		<a href="http://www.dlr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dlr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
Clinical Nurse Specialists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Commercial Drivers License (CDL)	Maryland Department of Transportation~Motor Vehicle Administration				<a href="http://www.mva.maryland.gov/">http://www.mva.maryland.gov/</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Construction and Building Inspectors	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Correctional Case Management Specialist or Classification Co	Dept. of Public Safety & Correctional Services~Police and Correctional Training Commissions~Certification Unit	3085 Hernwood Road Woodstock , MD 21163	(410) 750 6500		
Correctional Officer	Dept. of Public Safety & Correctional Services~Police and Correctional Training Commissions~Certification Unit	3085 Hernwood Road Woodstock , MD 21163	(410) 750 6500		
COSMETOLOGIST	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentalesting.net">http://www.continentalesting.net</a>
COUNSELORS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4732		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bopc">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bopc</a>
DENTAL ASSISTANT	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Spring Grove State Hospital	Benjamin Rush Bldg, 55 Wade Avenue Baltimore , MD 21228	(410) 402 8500		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/dental">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/dental</a>
DENTAL HYGIENIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Spring Grove State Hospital	Benjamin Rush Bldg, 55 Wade Avenue Baltimore , MD 21228	(410) 402 8500		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/dental">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/dental</a>
DENTIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Spring Grove State Hospital	Benjamin Rush Bldg, 55 Wade Avenue Baltimore , MD 21228	(410) 402 8500		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/dental">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/dental</a>
Dermatologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Dietetic Practice	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 7433		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/dietetic/Pages/licensure.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/dietetic/Pages/licensure.aspx</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for Professional Engineer	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6260		<a href="http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
ELECTROLOGIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Electrologists	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4702		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/</a>
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (Dispensers) (EMT-D)	Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services~Office of Education and Certification	653 West Pratt Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 706 3666		
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (PARAMEDIC) AND CARDIAC RESCUE	Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services~Office of Education and Certification	653 West Pratt Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 706 3666		
ESTHETICIAN	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentaltesting.net">http://www.continentaltesting.net</a>
Family and General Practitioners	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
FIREWORKS OPERATOR (SHOOTER)	Office of the State Fire Marshal~Bomb Squad	P.O. Box 28903, BWI Airport, , MD 21240	(410) 859 7152		
FORESTERS	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board for Foresters	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6271		<a href="http://www.safnet.org">http://www.safnet.org</a>
Fund-Raising Counselor	Office of the Secretary of State~Charitable Organizations Division	Statehouse Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 974 5527 ext 3		
FUNERAL DIRECTOR	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Maryland State Board of Mortician	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4792		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bom">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bom</a>
GAS FITTER	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Plumbing	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6270		<a href="https://candidate.psiexams.com/">https://candidate.psiexams.com/</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
GUARDS	Maryland State Police~Licensing Division	7751 Washington Blvd Baltimore , MD 20794	(410) 799 0191		<a href="https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision.aspx">https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision.aspx</a>
HEALTH EDUCATOR	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
HEARING AID DISPENSERS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Audiology/Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech~and Language Pathologists	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4723		<a href="http://www.dhnh.state.md.us/boardsahs">http://www.dhnh.state.md.us/boardsahs</a>
Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanics and Installers	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
HEATING, VENTILATION, A/C, & REFRIGERATION CONTRACTOR	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for HVACR	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6161		<a href="http://www.dlir.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dlir.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
HOME CARE AIDES	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Maryland Board of Nursing	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 1900		<a href="https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx">https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx</a>
HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Home Improvement	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6176		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
HOME IMPROVEMENT SALESPERSON	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Home Improvement	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6176		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
HOME IMPROVEMENT SUB-CONTRACTOR	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Home Improvement	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6176		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
Hospitalists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				



License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Incinerator Operator	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
Insurance Producer / All LOAs	Maryland Insurance Administration				<a href="http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/">http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/</a>
INTERIOR DESIGNER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Interior Designers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6259		<a href="http://www.ncidq.org">http://www.ncidq.org</a>
Internists, General	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Juvenile Counselor	Dept. of Public Safety & Correctional Services~Police and Correctional Training Commissions~Certification Unit	3085 Hernwood Road Woodstock , MD 21163	(410) 750 6500		
Juvenile Youth Supervisor	Dept. of Public Safety & Correctional Services~Police and Correctional Training Commissions~Certification Unit	3085 Hernwood Road Woodstock , MD 21163	(410) 750 6500		
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6256		<a href="http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
LIBRARIAN	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
LIBRARY TECHNICIANS	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
Licensed Bachelor Social Worker	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Social Work Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4788		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Licensed Certified Social Worker	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Social Work Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4788		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Social Work Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4788		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Licensed Master Social Worker	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Social Work Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4788		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
LOBBYIST	State Ethics Commission	9 State Circle, Suite 200 Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 974 2068		
MAKEUP ARTISTS	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentalesting.net">http://www.continentalesting.net</a>
MANICURISTS	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentalesting.net">http://www.continentalesting.net</a>
Massage Therapists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
MASTER BARBER	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6193		<a href="http://www.continentalesting.net">http://www.continentalesting.net</a>
Master Certified Emissions Technician	Maryland Department of the Environment	2500 Broening Highway Baltimore , MD 21224	(410) 537 3801		<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Master Electricians	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6163		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for Professional Engineer	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6260		<a href="http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
MEDICAL ASSISTANT	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene–Maryland Board of Nursing	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 1900		<a href="https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx">https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx</a>
MEDICAL LIBRARIAN	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
MORTICIAN	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene–Maryland State Board of Mortician	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4792		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bom">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bom</a>
Motor Club Representative / None	Maryland Insurance Administration				<a href="http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/">http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/</a>
Naturopathic Physicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Neurologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Notary Public	Office of the Secretary of State~Notary Public	Statehouse Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 974 5520 ext 2		
Nuclear Medicine Physicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
NURSE	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene–Maryland Board of Nursing	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 1900		<a href="https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx">https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Nurse Anesthetists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Nurse Practitioners	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
NURSING AIDES, ORDERLIES, AND ATTENDANTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Maryland Board of Nursing	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 1900		<a href="https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx">https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx</a>
NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators	4201 Patterson Ave., Room 318 Baltimore , MD 21215-2299	(410) 764 4750		<a href="http://www.dhnh.state.md.us">http://www.dhnh.state.md.us</a>
Obstetricians and Gynecologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Occupational Therapy Practice~Spring Grove State Hospital	Benjamin Rush Bldg, 55 Wade Avenue Baltimore , MD 21228	(410) 402 8560		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/botp/Pages/home.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/botp/Pages/home.aspx</a>
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Occupational Therapy Practice~Spring Grove State Hospital	Benjamin Rush Bldg, 55 Wade Avenue Baltimore , MD 21228	(410) 402 8560		<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/botp/Pages/home.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/botp/Pages/home.aspx</a>
OPTOMETRISTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Examiners in Optometry	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4710		
Parole and Probation Agent	Dept. of Public Safety & Correctional Services~Police and Correctional Training Commissions~Certification Unit	3085 Hernwood Road Woodstock , MD 21163	(410) 750 6500		
PATHOLOGIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Physicians	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4777		<a href="http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html">http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Pathologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Pediatricians, General	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Pest Control Applicator	Maryland Department of Agriculture	The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 841 5710		<a href="http://www.mda.state.md.us">http://www.mda.state.md.us</a>
Pest Control Consultant	Maryland Department of Agriculture	The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 841 5710		<a href="http://www.mda.state.md.us">http://www.mda.state.md.us</a>
PHARMACISTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene--Board of Pharmacy	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4755		<a href="http://www.mdbop.org">http://www.mdbop.org</a>
Pharmacy Technicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
PHYSICAL THERAPIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene--Board of Physical Therapy Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4752		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bphte">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bphte</a>
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene--Board of Physical Therapy Examiners	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4752		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bphte">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bphte</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Physicians	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4777		<a href="http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html">http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html</a>
PHYSICIAN, OPHTHALMOLOGIST, MEDICAL DOCTOR, MEDICAL DIRECTOR	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Physicians	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4777		<a href="http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html">http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html</a>
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
PLUMBER	Maryland Department of Labor~State Board of Plumbing	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6270		<a href="https://candidate.psiexams.com/">https://candidate.psiexams.com/</a>
PODIATRIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Podiatric Medical Examination	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4785		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/</a>
Police Officer	Dept. of Public Safety & Correctional Services~Police and Correctional Training Commissions~Certification Unit	3085 Hernwood Road Woodstock , MD 21163	(410) 750 6500		
PRECIOUS METAL & GEM DEALERS	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Precious Metal & Gem Dealers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6271		<a href="http://www.dlrr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dlrr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
Preventive Medicine Physicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
PRIVATE DETECTIVE	Maryland State Police~Licensing Division	7751 Washington Blvd Baltimore , MD 20794	(410) 799 0191		<a href="https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision.aspx">https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision.aspx</a>

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board for Professional Engineer	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6260		<a href="http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Land Surveyors	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6265		<a href="http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html">http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/electron.html</a>
Professional Solicitor	Office of the Secretary of State~Charitable Organizations Division	Statehouse Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 974 5527 ext 3		
PSYCHIATRISTS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4787		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/</a>
PSYCHOLOGIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4787		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/</a>
Public Adjuster / None	Maryland Insurance Administration				<a href="http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/">http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/</a>
Public Safety Solicitor	Office of the Secretary of State~Charitable Organizations Division	Statehouse Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 974 5527 ext 3		
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Physicians	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4777		<a href="http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html">http://www.mbp.state.md.us/mbp2/index_template.html</a>
Radiologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
REAL ESTATE APPRAISER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Appraisers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6165		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATE BROKER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Commission	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6227		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a> .

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
REAL ESTATE BROKER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Commission	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6227		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Commission	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6227		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
REGULATED SHOOTING AREA OPERATOR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)~Forest, Wildlife & Heritage Division	580 Taylor Ave, E-1 Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 260 8595		<a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us">http://www.dnr.state.md.us</a>
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Real Estate Appraisers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6165		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Respiratory Therapy	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4723		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/boardsahs">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/boardsahs</a>
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
SCHOOL COUNSELOR	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND SUPERVISOR	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
Special Education Teachers	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/THERAPIST	Maryland State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene~Board of Audiology/Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech and Language Pathologists	4201 Patterson Ave Baltimore , MD 21215	(410) 764 4723		<a href="http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/boardsahs">http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/boardsahs</a>



License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Sports Medicine Physicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
STATIONARY ENGINEER	Maryland Department of Labor~Board of Examining Engineers	500 North Calvert Street Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 230 6162		<a href="http://www.psiexams.com">http://www.psiexams.com</a>
Surgeons	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Surplus Lines Broker / None	Maryland Insurance Administration				<a href="http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/">http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/</a>
TAXI DRIVER AND CHAUFFEUR	Public Service Commission (PSC)~Division of Transportation	6 St. Paul Center, 18th floor Baltimore , MD 21202	(410) 767 8128		
TAXIDERMIST AND FUR-TANNER	Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)~Forest, Wildlife & Heritage Division	580 Taylor Ave, E-1 Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 260 8595		<a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us">http://www.dnr.state.md.us</a>
Teacher (Professional) Kindergarten	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
Teacher (Professional) Vocational Education/Training	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
Teacher (Provisional and Resident)	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
TREE EXPERT	Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)~Forest, Wildlife & Heritage Division	580 Taylor Ave, E-1 Annapolis , MD 21401	(410) 260 8595		<a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us">http://www.dnr.state.md.us</a>
Urologists	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				

License Name	Licensing Agency	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Veterinarian	Maryland Department of Agriculture-Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners				<a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/vetboard/Pages/registration_renewals.aspx">https://mda.maryland.gov/vetboard/Pages/registration_renewals.aspx</a>
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				
Viatical Settlement Broker / None	Maryland Insurance Administration				<a href="http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/">http://www.insurance.maryland.gov/</a>
Vocational Education Teachers, Postsecondary	Maryland State Department of Education	200 West Baltimore St Baltimore , MD 21201	(410) 767 0609		<a href="http://www.msde.state.md.us">http://www.msde.state.md.us</a>
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	There is some indication that this license exists in Maryland, but it has not yet been confirmed by state experts				

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**SB523\_ Occupational Licensure Testimony.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN  
Legislative District 17  
Montgomery County

Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Audit Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3134 · 410-841-3134  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134  
Fax 301-858-3665 · 410-841-3665  
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB523: Occupations and Professions – Licenses – Immigrants**

Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | 1:00 PM

As you surely know, massive labor shortages exist in critical professions in Maryland and around the country. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates that 500,000 nurses will leave the profession this year-- bringing the national total to 1.1 million vacancies. The lack of qualified health care workers has been exacerbated during the pandemic, putting our families and our neighbors at risk of receiving substandard care.

[35% of Maryland's acute care hospitals](#) have declared crisis standards due to severe staffing shortages and capacity overload. There are 3,900 nursing vacancies in state hospitals-- a 50% jump since last August (*Maryland Hospital Association/MHA*). These vacancies are costing our hospitals enormous sums of money in labor costs. Maryland hospitals have paid an additional [\\$435,000,000 in contract labor costs over pre-pandemic levels](#), often being forced to hire traveling nurses and [pay them double the average hourly cost](#) of a staff nurse.

Current law denies non-citizens many career opportunities based solely on their immigration status. [SB523](#) would authorize immigrants who are Maryland residents and meet all other qualifications to apply for occupational licensure by removing the criterion of citizenship.

SB523 would help more than the health care field. About [40% of workers in MD](#) hold positions that require professional or occupational licensure. [This includes at least 130 professions](#)-- teachers, electricians, home aides, mental health practitioners, social workers, bus drivers, police officers, veterinarians, cosmetologists, building contractors, and many, many more.

We already permit immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates and attend community college tuition-free. When these talented students graduate they cannot get a job in their field based solely on their citizenship status.

**Five states** (California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, & New Jersey) have updated their laws to allow qualified individuals, regardless of immigration status, to obtain occupational or professional licensure. **An additional nine states** (Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, & Wyoming) allow licensure for certain immigration statuses and/or certain professions.

**I urge a favorable report on SB523 to address the critical need for licensed workers in Maryland.**

# **SB0523 2022 -- Takoma Park Mobilization -- Support**

Uploaded by: Seth Grimes

Position: FAV



## 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](http://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](mailto:seth.grimes@gmail.com)*

**SB0523\_FAV\_MedChi\_Occs. & Profs. - Lic., Cert., &**

Uploaded by: Steve Wise

Position: FAV

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

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

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 17, 2022

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

---

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 523.

Senate Bill 523 defines the term “immigrant” as an individual whose country of origin is one other than the United States and who is not a citizen, but is a resident of the State. The bill then prohibits a professional board from denying a license to an immigrant if the person otherwise meets all educational, training, and professional requirements for licensure. In the case of physicians, this would apply to the Board of Physicians.

MedChi believes this is a reasonable bill that would allow only fully qualified physicians to become licensed, so regardless of one’s immigration status, patients are ensured that the physician meets the same basic standards of education and training as any other physician licensed in Maryland. The last two years have illustrated how fragile our health care workforce is in times of emergency, so this bill helps to ensure that the State is not turning away qualified physician applicants.

For these reasons, MedChi supports Senate Bill 523.

**For more information call:**

J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000



# **SB 523 ProfessionalOccupational Licenses For Illeg**

Uploaded by: Brigitta MULLICAN

Position: UNF

Testimony from Brigitta Mullican Rockville, MD 20852  
February 17, 2022

## Oppose SB 523, "Professional/Occupational Licenses for Illegal Aliens"

As a naturalized citizen who has lived in Maryland for over 56 years, I believe legislators should make no laws that use tax dollars for illegal aliens.

My family immigrated legally as did a large number of others from various countries. We were required to complete all the immigration requirements before being admitted to the US. My parents, two brothers and I had to have proof of vaccination and a sponsor before we were approved to come here.

Federal immigration laws must be enforced and immigration procedures must be followed before allowing people from other countries to be here. If not, then those here undocumented have broken the US Immigration Laws. America is a land of law and order and expects respect of the laws..

I request an unfavorable vote on this SB-523 for the following reasons, it:

### Violates and Undermines Federal Law

Federal law is plainly designed to preclude illegal aliens from receiving commercial and professional licenses as a "public benefit" under 8 U.S.C. § 1621.

- Granting a professional license to illegal aliens frustrates the purpose and objectives of federal immigration law.
- Illegal aliens have no legal right to remain in the United States and are prohibited from being employed; granting them occupational licenses helps them directly violate the law.

### Is Unfair to U.S. Citizens and Legal Immigrants

- Professionals are expected to follow the law and be held to high standards yet these licenses are privileges being granted to people who violate the law every day.
- If illegal aliens can gain these benefits, this is a slap in the face to legal immigrants who've waited years and spent thousands of dollars to come here the right way.
- Licensing illegal aliens deprives citizens and legal immigrants of job and business opportunities.

### Acts as a Magnet For More Illegal Immigration

- Every benefit at taxpayer expense a state gives to illegal aliens encourages more illegal immigration
- Illegal immigration acts a drain on state resources that could otherwise be spent on citizens and legal immigrants

Maryland taxpayers already spend too much paying for illegal aliens and don't need to spend even more.

For all these reasons and the safety of our community, I request an unfavorable vote.

# **Unfavorable testimony SB 0523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Margaret Montuori

Position: UNF

SB 0523 - Unfavorable

Margaret Montuori  
7901 Deepwell Dr.  
Bethesda, MD 20817

Every year Maryland representatives erode the federal rules of law on illegal immigration because they deny the definition of “illegal”. They trot out the same paid representatives from the various Maryland pro illegal immigrant organizations and agencies and persons in the Maryland judiciary - who really should know better. The Supremacy Clause is still in the Constitution. They cry. They tell you how altruistic their efforts are and what non-Americans they are helping. The reality is that all those involved in creating and getting pro illegal immigration legislation passed in Maryland don't give a toss about the taxpayer. That's just the guy who is handed the bill to pay for their schemes to aid and abet current illegal immigrants and attract more of the undocumented to the tune of billions of Maryland tax dollars.

Here, Ms. Kagan's bill SB 523 is a newly crafted shiny magnet to attract more of the undocumented. Come to Maryland illegally and you will receive professional credentials. If an immigrant cannot come to this country through legal channels, why should they receive professional credentials of any sort? This is job creation for persons who are not yet legal participants in the American socioeconomic system.

Does this committee not understand that Americans are watching, because of the mishandling of covid, other Americans being forced out of their government and private business jobs? Not only should job creation should be solidified for Americans starting in the high schools but SB 523 has the potential to usurp jobs from Americans and legal immigrants.

SB 0523 is yet another step to legitimize the illegal, the undocumented. The language in this bill, “an immigrant if the individual meets certain requirements” is both vague and deceptive. But ILLEGAL IS ILLEGAL. Legislation that benefits the illegal immigrant's position is a slap in the face to the legal immigrant and the American worker.

# **Opposition to SB 0523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Quon Kwan

Position: UNF

14913 Bauer Drive  
Rockville, MD 20853  
February 16, 2022

Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland General Assembly

RE: SB 0523

I am writing to state my opposition to this bill which proposes professional/occupational licenses for illegal aliens. My reasons are in three categories: (1) the bill violates and subverts Federal law, (2) the bill is unfair to U.S. Citizens and legal immigrants and (3) the bill encourages more illegal immigration.

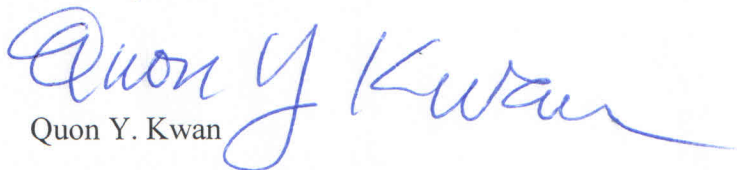
The bill violates and subverts Federal Law as stipulated under 8 U.S.C. 1621. The bill frustrates the purpose and objectives of Federal immigration law, which should pre-empt any state laws. Illegal aliens do not have any legal rights to reside in the U.S. or to seek employment in the U.S.

The bill is unfair to U.S. Citizens and legal immigrants. Allowing illegal immigrants to gain professional/occupational licenses unfairly allows them to compete with U.S. Citizens and legal immigrants. Only U.S. Citizens and legal immigrants should enjoy the privileges of professional/occupational licensing. Allowing illegal aliens to gain the same benefits as U.S. Citizens and legal immigrants is a slap in the face to legal immigrants who've waited years and spent thousands of dollars to come to the U.S. the right way. Licensing illegal aliens deprives citizens and legal immigrants of job and business opportunities.

This bill encourages more illegal immigration. Every benefit at taxpayer expense that a state gives to illegal aliens encourages more illegal immigration. Illegal immigration acts like a drain on state resources that could otherwise be spent on citizens and legal immigrants. Maryland taxpayers already spend too much paying for illegal aliens and don't need to spend even more.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to SB 0523.

Sincerely,

  
Quon Y. Kwan

# **illegal immigrants professional licensing.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Kwan

Position: UNF

I am opposed to SB 0523/HB 0533 for the following reasons:

1. In this pandemic time, our economy suffers greatly. Many people lost jobs and can't pay their rent or mortgage. On top of that we are dealing with inflation. Our government needs to take care of our own people first who have been paying taxes all our life. There is no resource to defray the costs of illegal immigrants for the State of Maryland.
2. Professionals are expected to follow the law. It is unfair to U.S. citizens and legal immigrants when these licenses are granted to illegal immigrants.
3. This is violating and undermining the Federal Law under 8 U.S.C. §1621. The Federal law is designed to preclude illegal aliens from receiving commercial and professional licenses.

I hope leaders in Maryland are working for the people here before we take care of anybody else.

Rebecca Kwan

14913 Bauer Dr.

Rockville, MD 20853



**sb523.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sara Elalamy

Position: UNF

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

Hon. Joseph M. Getty  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne Pelz  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 523  
Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and  
Registration – Immigrants  
**DATE:** February 9, 2022  
(2/17)  
**POSITION:** Oppose, as drafted

---

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 523, as drafted in its application to the State Board of Law Examiners (SBLE).

The Judiciary has no position on the intent of the legislation nor is the thrust of the bill a concern for SBLE as the rules of the Court of Appeals do not require citizenship for bar applicants. However, it is unclear whether "professional requirements for licensure" on page 2, line 4 includes character & fitness review, and not just meeting education, training, and other administrative requirements. The Judiciary would request that this language be clarified. "Professional requirements" should include character & fitness and all other aspects of the bar application process if the bill is meant to apply to SBLE.

cc. Hon. Cheryl Kagan  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor

**SB 523\_SP\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Reichert-Price

Position: UNF

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
and Members of The Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 523-Immigration-Occupations and Professions-Licenses, Certificates and Registrations- **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Pinsky and Members of The Committee,

I urge your opposition for SB 523, granting professional licensure to illegal immigrant applicants. Simply put, illegal immigrants have NO rights in the United States because they simply don't belong here. They should remain in their country of origin until which time they can follow due process and become a LEGAL citizen. Therefore, certifying illegal immigrants with a professional license, is unjustifiable. Doing so, minimizes the rights of those Marylanders who are **LEGAL AMERICAN CITIZENS** and decreases the peace and unity that the Biden Administration claims to want for all American people.

Please vote an UNFAVORABLE report for SB 523- Immigration- Occupations and Professions.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price (ACRWC)  
221 Miller Street  
Westernport, MD

# **MD Testimony - SB 523 - Oppose Professional and Oc**

Uploaded by: Shari Rendall

Position: UNF

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Alan N. Weeden

The Hon. Curtin Winsor Jr.

*FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest*



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair  
West Miller Senate Building  
Room 2  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and other distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation's interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR's opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 523, the occupational and professional licensing bill. Granting an occupational or professional license to illegal aliens frustrates the purpose and objectives of federal immigration law.

Federal law is plainly designed to preclude those here illegally from receiving commercial and professional licenses, as public benefit under Title 8 U.S.C. § 1621. Granting an occupational or professional license to illegal aliens frustrates the purpose and objectives of federal immigration law. Illegal aliens have no legal right to remain in the United States and are prohibited from being employed. Moreover, illegal aliens could be subject to deportation. Providing a professional or occupational license to an individual who could be deported at any time needlessly could jeopardize those who are depending on that individual for services.

In order to be eligible for many occupational and professional licenses there is generally a requirement of good moral character. Those in the country illegally have already violated American laws to enter the country and continue to violate the law by remaining. It is contradictory to regard continuous law-breaking as meeting this requirement.

Additionally, many occupational and professional licenses require the practitioner to take an oath to uphold our laws. Someone here illegally cannot in good faith take that oath because they breaking the law simply by



their continued unlawful presence. Nor can someone administer such an oath in good faith to someone they know is violating it and intends to continue violating it.

Granting an occupational or professional license to someone in the country illegally takes jobs away from American citizens and legal immigrants. In December 2021, Maryland's unemployment rate was five percent while the national average for the month was just under four percent. The Maryland legislature should focus on getting the state's legal workforce back to work instead of providing jobs for those in the country illegally.

Moreover, providing occupational or professional licenses to those in the country illegally incentivizes still more illegal immigration. With higher than average unemployment, Maryland should not be encouraging more illegal immigration. In 2017, FAIR estimated Maryland taxpayers spent more than \$1.7 billion on illegal aliens – that number has undoubtedly gone up since. The more incentives Maryland adopts, like professional and occupational licensing, the greater the costs.

Finally, giving someone here illegally an occupational or professional license obliterates the distinction between those who are legally present and those who are in violation of federal law. Legal immigrants have worked hard, in some cases for many years and at great expense, to follow the rules and come here the right way. This bill is unfair to them as it disregards those efforts and rewards those who have ignored the requirements Congress has imposed to live and work here legally.

It is for these reasons FAIR opposes SB 523 and urges an unfavorable report. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we may be of assistance. I may be reached via email at [srendall@fairus.org](mailto:srendall@fairus.org) or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,



Shari Rendall

# **testomony of Wei Yan against SB 523\_lisence to ill**

Uploaded by: Wei Yan

Position: UNF



Dear Chair and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Members,

Please oppose SB 523, "Professional/Occupational Licenses For Illegal Aliens" because of these reasons.  
The Bill:

1. Violates and Undermines Federal Law

- Federal law is plainly designed to preclude illegal aliens from receiving commercial and professional licenses as a “public benefit” under 8 U.S.C. § 1621. Current Law: The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 generally denies eligibility for many State or local public benefits to an alien (any person not a citizen or national of the United States). Certain exceptions apply, both to eligible individuals and to eligible public benefits. For example, emergency health services and some social services (such as soup kitchens and shelters) are excluded. However, federal law expressly denies eligibility to nonexempt aliens for a professional license or commercial license provided by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government. A state may establish that an individual who is not lawfully present in the United States is eligible for any State or local public benefit for which such an individual would otherwise be ineligible only through the enactment of a state law after August 22, 1996, which affirmatively makes such individuals eligible for specified benefits.
- Granting a professional license to illegal aliens frustrates the purpose and objectives of federal immigration law.
- Illegal aliens have no legal right to remain in the United States and are prohibited from being employed; granting them occupational licenses helps them directly violate the law.

2. Is Unfair to U.S. Citizens and Legal Immigrants, and is Unconstitutional

- Professionals are expected to follow the law and be held to high standards yet these licenses are privileges being granted to people who violate the law every day.
- If illegal aliens can gain these benefits, this is a slap in the face to legal immigrants who’ve waited years and spent thousands of dollars to come here the right way.
- Licensing illegal aliens deprives citizens and legal immigrants of job and business opportunities.

3. Acts as a Magnet For More Illegal Immigration

- Every benefit at taxpayer expense a state gives to illegal aliens encourages more illegal immigration
- Illegal immigration acts a drain on state resources that could otherwise be spent on citizens and legal immigrants

4. Is unsafe for public

- Illegal immigrants caused lots of crisis already and never be background checked like U.S. citizens and legal immigrants. If more safety issues generated by the illegal immigrants, We The People will do more things to stop the situation by law suit, recall the related government staffs and representatives.

Maryland taxpayers already spend too much paying for illegal aliens and don't need to spend even more  
Don't we have more problems than to ignore the Federal immigration laws? Please oppose this Bill.

Respectfully,

Wei Yan

22 Salthill Ct

Timonium, MD 21093

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Uploaded by: Heather Shek

Position: INFO



# Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 523 – Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants. This bill prohibits a state occupational or professional licensing board from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets certain requirements.

Currently, section 10-119.3 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Annotated Code (Md. Code Ann.) requires a licensing authority to require an individual to disclose a Social Security Number (SSN) on an application<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, Title 8 of the Maryland Health Occupations, Md. Code Ann. requires that a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) party state obtain a valid United States SSN for an individual who has submitted an application for multistate licensure.<sup>2</sup> Under existing law, the Board is required to collect and verify SSNs submitted as part of the licensure and certification process. If an individual does not provide a SSN, their application will be denied even if they have met all education and training criteria. The current SSN requirement listed in section 10 prohibits a number of immigrants, with lawful status and residence, from joining the healthcare workforce. The Board believes the intent of SB 523 is to expand the ability of immigrants to work. However, the current inconsistencies would exclude immigrants who have lawfully obtained an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is a tax-processing number issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure that non-resident individuals (such as spouses of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents) pay taxes regardless of their immigration status.<sup>3</sup> Individuals who are lawfully present in the U.S. but who may not be eligible for a SSN must obtain an ITIN. The IRS states, however, that an ITIN does not automatically provide work

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<sup>1</sup> Family Law – Title 10 – Subtitle 1 - § 10-119.3(b)(1). Suspension or Denial of Occupational License for Arrearages.

<sup>2</sup> Nurse Licensure Compact (page 4). National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

<sup>3</sup> ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number). Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

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authorization. Additional documentation must be submitted by the individual to receive clearance for employment.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information for SB 523.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 ([iman.farid@maryland.gov](mailto:iman.farid@maryland.gov)) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 ([rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", written in a cursive style.

Gary N. Hicks  
Board President

**The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.**