



# House Bill 407 - SUPPORT

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Health & Government Operations Committee

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Haley Holik

*Visiting Fellow*

Opportunity Solutions Project

Dear Members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing policies that reduce barriers to work. OSP supports House Bill 407.

Research confirms that licensed workers are less likely than unlicensed workers to move between states, largely due to licensing restrictions.<sup>1</sup> State licensing restrictions act as a barrier to new workers while protecting established workers, as it takes time and money to complete new training and education requirements.<sup>2-3</sup>

That's why HB 407 is a step in the right direction for Maryland. It would streamline licensure for medical professionals during emergencies, allowing the state to respond to health crises accordingly. Under this bill, medical professionals are only allowed to practice in Maryland for a limited period.

Maryland should advance HB 407 and continue to reduce barriers to licensure by permanently expanding this policy to all workers.

Thank you for your time.

Haley Holik, *Visiting Fellow*

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<sup>1</sup> Janna Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, "Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?" National Bureau of Economic Research (2017), <https://www.nber.org/papers/w24107>.

<sup>2</sup> Jared Meyer, "How occupational licensing inhibits economic opportunity," Foundation for Government Accountability (2017), <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/How-Occupational-Licensing-Inhibits-Economic-Opportunity-10-23-17.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, "The state of occupational licensing" (2017), [https://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/employ/Licensing/State\\_Occupational\\_Licensing.pdf](https://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/employ/Licensing/State_Occupational_Licensing.pdf).