

SB187 Testimony EveryMind 2-7-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Amse Heck

Position: FAV

2/7/2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

SB187 - 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 MidAtlantic. As the mental health crisis worsens, EveryMind saw a shortage of licensed mental health clinicians, case workers, and hotline specialists in the region. The availability of talented, licensed professionals in the mental health and human services sector continues to contract as the demand for their services grows. Competition is even fiercer for the limited pool of bi- and multilingual, culturally competent therapists.

Amidst this shortage, EveryMind invested heavily in growing our HR department and contracting additional recruiters. To increase retention efforts, we increased licensed staff salaries to keep up with competition for mental health professionals and expanded our search and incentives to attract talent from other states. Last year, EveryMind increased spending by \$200,000 to bolster recruiting and increase therapist salaries by 15% to match the current nonprofit market rate. Nonprofit community mental health organizations like EveryMind cannot keep up with the salaries offered in the private sector and government sectors for this scarce and skilled labor force. As we work to address the urgent mental health crisis in our schools and community, the pipeline of social work and mental health professionals is too small to meet our State's and nation's needs for services.

EveryMind is pleased to support SB187—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 SB187 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 requirements.

SB187 - Adventist HealthCare - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Nicklas

Position: FAV



820 West Diamond Avenue, Suite 600
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
www.AdventistHealthCare.com

February 7, 2023

To: The Senate Finance Committee

From: Adventist HealthCare

Re: SB187 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

POSITION: SUPPORT

Like all hospitals in Maryland and across the nation, Adventist HealthCare is facing a critical staffing shortage. With three nationally accredited acute-care hospitals, a nationally accredited rehabilitation hospital, and being the second largest provider of behavioral health care in Maryland, AHC supports SB187 which will allow hospitals to tap into the pipeline of international healthcare workers to help address this significant workforce issue.

Senate Bill 187 ensures every qualified health care professional can apply for a license to practice in Maryland. This legislation will make the state more competitive by removing a significant barrier for internationally educated nurses. The sponsor's amendments allow alternative identification to be used to obtain a health occupations license, including an individual taxpayer identification number or alternative documentation as permitted by the federal Social Security Act. The amendments also prohibit the health occupations boards from requiring a SSN or ITIN as a condition of licensure or certification if the applicant does have one.

Current policy places Maryland at a disadvantage when attracting international nurses. For an international nurse to work in Maryland they must first obtain a license in another state and then endorse their license here. This is a lengthy and expensive process and encourages nurses to seek licensure in other states with fewer barriers.

AHC is pursuing multiple strategies to recruit and retain our workforce such as increasing compensation and offering loan forgiveness. We are also developing training programs to increase the supply of clinical support employees. Accessing the international pipeline of workers is a critical component to ensuring we can continue to adequately staff our facilities and ensure access to care for our communities.

For these reasons Adventist HealthCare supports SB187 and encourages the committee to give a **favorable report**.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187.pdf

Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Dr. Anna Rubin

DATE: Tuesday, February 3th, 2023

As a daughter of immigrants and a mother to a foreign-born child, my personal story is woven in with the immigrant story. Licensing is pervasive and has contributed positively to a high level of competence in a variety of professions. But while many immigrants pay taxes, they may not have a social security number. When my father immigrated to this country in the 1920s as a young teen, he was immediately able to work, to enter training for the optical profession and then continue training to be an optometrist in the 30s, and then open up a practice. However he didn't obtain a social security number until he was in his forties.

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for health occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with what's established constitutionally for licensing authorities, or with Maryland's economic interest, or with national trends, and lastly, it's not aligned with the state's investment in the immigrant community.

I strongly support Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding health occupational licensure to our immigrant community for the following reasons:

1. Maryland is home to a large immigrant community. According to the American Immigration Council, one in seven Maryland residents is an immigrant - or, almost one million individuals, comprising 15% of the population. Maryland has made good strides in providing great opportunities to these communities, for example, by expanding in-state tuition and free community college access to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status.
2. By not allowing all immigrants to have access to health occupational licenses that they are qualified for, the State is losing its investment as businesses lose not only competent labor, but also revenue. According to the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, there are 237,845 undocumented immigrants in the state - 15,485 of them who are DACA eligible. The spending power of just the DACA eligible population is over \$285 million, with a tax contribution of \$36 million.
3. Expanding access to health occupational licensing for immigrants would not only be in the State's best economic interest, but it would align with developments in other states that have expanded access, such as New Jersey—an individual does not need a Social Security Number to apply for licensure there.
4. Occupational licensing boards are not immigration enforcement authorities. They determine if an individual possesses all qualifications to safely serve in a particular profession.

Therefore, Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from health licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth. **I strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Anna Rubin (Emerita, UMBC) 21045

Astrid Mendoza Testimony for Senate Bill-- Immigra

Uploaded by: Astrid Mendoza

Position: FAV

Astrid Mendoza, Hyattsville, 20783

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Astrid Mendoza

DATE: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

My name is Astrid Mendoza and I am a sophomore 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 pursuing a career in counseling psychology. 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.

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for health occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with what's established constitutionally for licensing authorities, or with Maryland's economic interest, or with national trends, and lastly, it's not aligned with the state's investment in the immigrant community.

I strongly support Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding health occupational licensure to our immigrant community for the following reasons:

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2. By not allowing all immigrants to have access to health occupational licenses that they are qualified for, the State is losing its investment as businesses lose not only competent labor, but also revenue. According to the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, there are 237,845 undocumented immigrants in the state - 15,485 of them who are DACA eligible. The spending power of just the DACA eligible population is over \$285 million, with a tax contribution of \$36 million.

Astrid Mendoza, Hyattsville, 20783

3. Expanding access to health occupational licensing for immigrants would not only be in the State's best economic interest, but it would align with developments in other states that have expanded access, such as New Jersey—an individual does not need a Social Security Number to apply for licensure there.
4. Occupational licensing boards are not immigration enforcement authorities; their purpose is simply to determine if an individual possesses all qualifications to perform and safely serve the public in a particular profession.

Therefore, Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from health licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth. I **strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,

Astrid Mendoza

SB0187 Health Occupations - Immigrants FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0187

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kagan

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0187 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Maryland is a state that is very welcoming to immigrants, who help support our economy and ensure that we have a wealth of diversity in our workforce. Anyone who is a resident of the state and is working, is paying into our tax base. In the case of immigrants who have not attained citizenship, they are often not getting the benefit of some of the taxes they pay since they are not eligible for a variety of programs. For those people who are residents but not citizens, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we don't put up barriers to their ability to become employed.

Currently, there are many jobs in Maryland that require a license and the laws regarding who can get a license clearly preclude immigrants because a Social Security Number is required. This means that state residents, who would otherwise be able to get a license, be employed, and pay taxes, are not eligible.

This legislation changes the applicable law so that the Health Occupations Board cannot deny a license, certification or registration to an immigrant as long as they meet the requirements and to allow a Taxpayer Identification Number in lieu of a Social Security Number on all the paperwork.

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

SB0187_FAV_MdCSWC_Health Occs. - Licenses, Certifi

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The Mdcswc, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 187 – *Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (Mdcswc), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of Mdcswc, we **support** Senate Bill 187.

The bill prohibits a professional board from denying a license to an immigrant, if the person otherwise meets all educational, training, and professional requirements for licensure. During a time when Maryland is facing a health care workforce shortage, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, this bill takes a commonsense approach for increasing the pipeline of qualified candidates. Mdcswc supports a diverse workforce and supports Senate Bill 187.

For more information call:

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

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: www.gwscsw.org

Contacts: Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: jg708@columbia.edu; mobile (301) 717-1004
Legislative Consultants: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer and Christine Krone, Schwartz, Metz, Wise & Kauffman, PA
20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Email: pmetz@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 746-9003 ; ckrone@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 940-9165

SB 187_Immigrant Health Licenses - BHSB_FAVORABLE.

Uploaded by: Dan Rabbitt

Position: FAV



February 7, 2023

**Senate Finance Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

SB 187 – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the local behavioral health authority (LBHA) for Baltimore City. BHSB works to increase access to a full range of quality behavioral health (mental health and substance use) services and advocates for innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals, families, and communities. Baltimore City represents nearly 35 percent of the public behavioral health system in Maryland, serving over 78,000 people with mental illness and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as “behavioral health”) annually.

Behavioral Health System Baltimore supports SB 187 – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants. This bill would require Maryland’s Health Occupation Boards to issue a license to qualified candidates regardless of immigration status. This important bill would address the acute health workforce shortage in the state and allow qualified professionals to practice.

Maryland is experiencing a severe shortage of virtually all licensed health professionals. Nurses, doctors, and support staff are in short supply, and there is higher demand than ever. For behavioral health professionals, the shortage is just as severe if not worse. Maryland has 63 federally designated mental health professional shortage areas, including 15 entire counties.¹ Most behavioral health providers have numerous open position that are going unfilled and the unmet demand for services is only increasing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions, and isolation. The state must do more to increase the number of mental health professionals practicing in the state, and this is a strong proposal to do so.

It is important to 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 due to lacking a social security number.

SB 187 is a reasonable approach that would allow additional individuals to become licensed or certified under the appropriate health occupation board. **BHSB urges a favorable report for SB 187.**

For more information, please contact BHSB Policy Director Dan Rabbitt at 443-401-6142

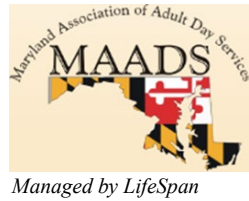
Endnotes:

¹ Rural Health Information Hub available at: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/?state=MD>

SB0187_FAV_LifeSpan, MAADS, MNCHA, HPCNM_Health Oc

Uploaded by: Danna Kauffman

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 187 – *Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, and the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of Maryland, we respectfully **support** Senate Bill 187. 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, the above-named organizations support Senate Bill 187 as a reasonable approach that would allow additional individuals to become licensed or certified under the appropriate health occupations 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, we urge a favorable vote.

SB187 - PJC - Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: David Rodwin

Position: FAV

SB 187: Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Hearing of the Senate Finance Committee, February 7, 2023

Position: Favorable

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Workplace Justice Project works to expand and enforce the right of low-wage workers to receive an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. The PJC **supports SB 187**, which would permit Marylanders to obtain occupational licenses through the use of individual taxpayer identification numbers rather than Social Security numbers.

Maryland faces an increasingly dire shortage of direct care workers, which hurts older adults and people with disabilities.

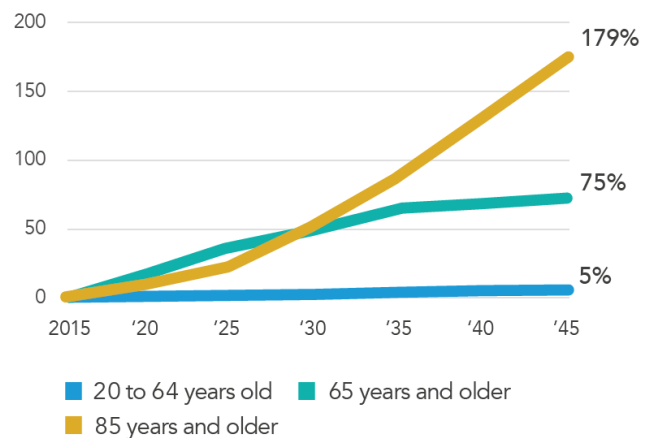
Demand for in-home care is increasing as Maryland becomes an older state and more people with disabilities receive care in their homes rather than nursing homes. A 2018 [study](#) found that Maryland will need 40 percent more care workers over the next ten years.¹ The chart to the right – taken from that study – shows Maryland's projected population growth and underscores the demographics underlying our need for more care workers. But the number of direct care workers is not increasing at a level approaching what is needed to meet our state's growing demand.

SB 187 would remove a barrier preventing many Marylanders from helping meet Maryland's need for more direct care workers.

By allowing workers to obtain an occupational license – such as a Certified Nursing Assistant license – with an individual taxpayer identification number rather than just a Social Security number, the bill would create a pathway for more workers to do these critical jobs. It would also help Maryland workers obtain a greater degree of stability in the formal economy.

For the foregoing reasons, the PJC **SUPPORTS SB 187** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Should you have any questions, please call David Rodwin at 410-625-9409 ext. 249.

Figure 2: Projected Population Growth by Age in MD, 2015-2045



¹ PHI, *The Direct Services Workforce in Long-Term Services and Supports in Maryland and the District of Columbia*, 2018, available at <http://phinational.org/resource/the-direct-services-workforce-in-ltss-in-md-and-dc/>.

The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

2023 Don Graham SB 187 Senate Side FAV (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Don Graham

Position: FAV

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Don Graham

Bill: SB 187 – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

Date: February 7, 2023

Madame Chair, members of the committee. I'm Don Graham, chairman of Graham Holdings Company and co-founder of a scholarship fund called TheDream.US to support students who are "dreamers". I live in Washington, DC. Our company owns businesses in Maryland including two auto dealerships and the Clyde's Restaurant Group. I was publisher of The Washington Post for 21 years. I have a deep admiration for this state and for everyone who serves in this body

Eight years ago, two friends and I co-founded a scholarship fund for students who are immigrants without documentation, some who have qualified for DACA and others who have not. We've partnered with over 70 colleges including St. Mary's College of Maryland. Morgan State University will become a partner this fall. We've enrolled over 7,000 students and those who've enrolled in four-year colleges have a 76% graduation rate. They came to the United States at an average age of 4.

We've partnered since 2014 with Trinity Washington University, a women's college in Washington that has long served Maryland students. 51 Maryland high school graduates have attended Trinity and I expect 90% will graduate.

Maryland has been generous to dreamers. The state was among the first to give them in-state tuition at state universities and to give them the same state financial aid their high-school classmates get. Every legislator should be thanked for that. But the status of today's immigrant high school graduates has changed. Many of those graduating 10 years ago had DACA, which included a federal work permit. This year, almost no immigrant high-school graduates in Maryland will be granted DACA. They won't have work permits—but by working as entrepreneurs or independent contractors, they can contribute to the workforce and to all of us.

Immigrant students are in Maryland in large numbers and are graduating from college. There is a critical shortage of nurses and other health-care workers in Maryland; among our [Dream.us](https://www.dream.us) students nationally, more major in health careers than in any other field. We'd ask you to open Maryland's health-care licensure examinations to all qualified applicants regardless of immigration status.

I am sure there are Senators who worry that actions helping immigrant students may disadvantage American citizens. This cannot be the case with this legislation. These students can work as contractors for a hospital, a doctor's office or a clinic. They cannot become employees. But by providing badly needed health-care services, they will be benefitting Maryland citizens, who desperately need more nurses and other caregivers.

Testimony for Senate Bill-- Immigrant Occupational

Uploaded by: Dora Currea

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Dora Currea, Co-Chair of the WNC Sanctuary Ministry

DATE: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

The Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry provides support and solidarity for our immigrant brothers and sisters. The Ministry was formed in response to resolutions passed by the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in support of immigrants and calling for meaningful reform of U.S. immigration law, policy, and practice. A key part of this reform calls for incorporating immigrants into our communities and providing them the opportunities to contribute and thrive.

The Sanctuary Ministry is a group of prayerful advocates who have created a network that serves the 88 parishes of the diocese of Washington covering the District of Columbia and Prince George's County. Our fastest growing parishes, those serving Prince George's County, include migrant communities that would benefit greatly from this legislation. If enacted, it would allow their congregation members to thrive as vital contributing members of our community. For this reason, we strongly support House Bill 0136 as a means of expanding occupational licensure to our immigrant community, of recouping investment in educational opportunities the state has funded, and of equitably serving our increasingly diverse population.

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for health occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with what's established constitutionally for licensing authorities, or with Maryland's economic interest, or with national trends, and lastly, it's not aligned with the state's investment in the immigrant community.

The WNC Sanctuary Ministry strongly supports Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding health occupational licensure to our immigrant community for the following reasons:

1. Maryland is home to a large immigrant community. According to the American Immigration Council, one in seven Maryland residents is an immigrant - or, almost one million individuals, comprising 15% of the population. Maryland has made good strides in providing great opportunities to these communities, for example, by expanding in-state tuition and free community college access to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status.
2. By not allowing all immigrants to have access to health occupational licenses that they are qualified for, the State is losing its investment as businesses lose not only competent labor, but also revenue. According to the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, there are 237,845 undocumented immigrants in the state - 15,485 of them who are DACA eligible. The spending power of just the DACA eligible population is over \$285 million, with a tax contribution of \$36 million.

**Washington National Cathedral [Sanctuary Ministry](#)
Washington National Cathedral / congregation@cathedral.org**

3. Expanding access to health occupational licensing for immigrants would not only be in the State's best economic interest, but it would align with developments in other states that have expanded access, such as New Jersey—an individual does not need a Social Security Number to apply for licensure there.
4. Occupational licensing boards are not immigration enforcement authorities; their purpose is simply to determine if an individual possesses all qualifications to perform and safely serve the public in a particular profession.

Therefore, Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from health licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth.

For the reasons above and our profound belief that all should be treated fairly, justly, and respectfully despite immigration status, we strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.

Respectfully submitted,

Dora Currea, Co-Chair of the WNC Sanctuary Ministry

Legislative Advocacy Occupational Licensing Testim

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Weber

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Elizabeth Weber, Acting Executive

DATE: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

The Southwest Partnership is a coalition of seven neighborhood associations and seven anchor institutions in the Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods of Barre Circle, Franklin Square, Hollins Roundhouse, Mount Clare, Pigtown, Poppleton, and Union Square. We work to build a vibrant, diverse, awesome community of choice. One of our areas of workforce is workforce development--connecting area residents to good, local jobs. Most of those jobs are in healthcare.

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for health occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with what's established constitutionally for licensing authorities, or with Maryland's economic interest, or with national trends, and lastly, it's not aligned with the state's investment in the immigrant community.

The Southwest Partnership strongly supports Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding health occupational licensure to our immigrant community for the following reasons:

1. Maryland is home to a large immigrant community. According to the American Immigration Council, one in seven Maryland residents is an immigrant - or, almost one million individuals, comprising 15% of the population. Maryland has made good strides in providing great opportunities to these communities, for example, by expanding in-state tuition and free community college access to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status.
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Therefore, Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from health licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth. **We strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Weber
Acting Executive Director
Southwest Partnership

Support of senate bill 0187.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erhuvwu Orhoevwri

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Erhuvwu Orhoevwri

DATE: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

My name is Erhuvwu Orhoevwri, and I am writing in support of the legislative bill **0187- Health Occupations-Licenses, Certificates and Registrations- mmigrants**. Current Maryland law requires all applicants for health occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with what's established constitutionally for licensing authorities, or with Maryland's economic interest, or with national trends, and lastly, it's not aligned with the state's investment in the immigrant community.

I strongly support Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding health occupational licensure to our immigrant community for the following reasons:

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Therefore, Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from health licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth especially amid an ongoing pandemic. **I strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erhuvwu Orhoevwri

Favorable Report for SB0187--Obatuase.pdf

Uploaded by: Ewaoluwa Ogundana

Position: FAV

February 6th, 2023

Ewaoluwa Obatuase
Beltsville, MD 20705
ewao@umd.edu/ 301-237-2984

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0187

“Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants”

To: Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee

From: Ewaoluwa Obatuase

- I am a graduate student at the University of Maryland College Park and I am also one of the 7,470 Dreamers in Maryland.¹
- **I am asking the committee to give a favorable report on SB0187 for the following reasons:**
 - This legislation will have a profound impact on the Maryland healthcare system, education system, and benefit the almost one million individuals, comprising 15% of the population who are immigrants in the state.²
 - There are about 13,000 other immigrants in Maryland who are eligible to be a Dreamer and are legally authorized to work with an ITIN, but due to administrative delays and backlogs in the immigration system, these individuals cannot obtain social security numbers that are needed to obtain licensure in Maryland and work in healthcare fields such as nursing, dentistry, or medicine. This legislation will help students and Dreamers like myself to work in professional fields that we desire and help our home state of Maryland.
 - Passing this legislation will also benefit Maryland in four significant ways:
 1. This legislation will alleviate the roadblocks to obtaining health professional licenses and encourage more students authorized to work with an ITIN 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 working as licensed healthcare professionals. Ultimately, by not allowing individuals authorized to work to have access to health occupational licenses that they are qualified for, the State is losing its investment as businesses lose not only competent labor, but also revenue.

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

² American Immigration Council

2. It is inconsistent to limit healthcare licenses from individuals authorized to work 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 enrollment decline/dropout rates in colleges still propagated by the 2020 pandemic because these students discontinue their education.³
3. Maryland already allows eligible immigrant students to pay in-state tuition rates at any state college and university.⁴ Passing this legislation will be consistent with past comprehensive policies that have helped immigrant students thus far in the state.
4. Lastly, with shortages and impacts still lingering from the 2020 pandemic, this legislation will help hospitals and healthcare offices across the state. Passing this legislation would bring relief to Maryland's healthcare systems as more eligible immigrants could obtain the necessary licenses to become healthcare professionals and help strengthen Maryland residents' health and economy.

I respectfully urge the committee to give SB0187 a favorable report.

³ 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."

⁴ Maryland In-State Tuition Referendum passed in 2012

CASA_FAV_SB0187.pdf

Uploaded by: George Escobar

Position: FAV



SB 0187 SUPPORT

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

February 6, 2023

Dear Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance 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 187** 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 187.

Respectfully,



George Escobar

Chief of Programs and Services

SB0187.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Forsyth

Position: FAV

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General



CANDACE McLAREN LANHAM
Chief of Staff

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

410.576.6571

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410.576.6513

February 6, 2023

To: The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
From: The Office of the Attorney General
Re: Senate Bill 0187 (Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants): Letter of Support

The Office of the Attorney General supports SB0187, which requires health occupations boards to license an immigrant otherwise qualified by using a tax identification number if the applicant does not have a social security number.

This change provides employment opportunities for qualified immigrant members of our community, strengthens our healthcare workforce, and makes Maryland better prepared to meet the healthcare needs of our residents. It is also consistent with the findings and recommendations in the 2021 Annual Report of the Skilled Immigrant Task Force, <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/skilledimmigrantannrepy21.pdf>

Nearly half of other states have enacted laws providing licensure, if not across professions and populations, then for certain workforce shortage occupations or immigrant status. See, <https://www.csg.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2022/09/Licensing-for-Immigrants-and-Refugees-1.pdf>

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB0187.

C: Senator Kagan

SB187 FAV JOTF Testimony - Immigrant Occupational

Uploaded by: Ioana Stoica

Position: FAV

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187: Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

TO: Chair Melony Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Ioana Stoica, Policy Advocate

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2023

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-skill, low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. **JOTF strongly supports Senate Bill 187 as a means of expanding occupational licensure to our immigrant community, of recouping investment in educational opportunities our state has funded, and of equitably serving our increasingly diverse population.**

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with the constitutionally established jurisdiction of licensing authorities, with Maryland's economic interest, with national trends, with public safety concerns, and with the state's investment in the immigrant community.

The Institute for Justice ranks Maryland as 9th in most burdensome licensing laws and 21st in most broadly and onerously licensed state, with almost 60% of all low-income occupations requiring an occupational license. Three populations that have routinely been identified as being disproportionately burdened by licensing laws include immigrants, individuals with a criminal record, and veterans and their families. Senate Bill 187 would begin addressing this undue burden by opening up occupational licensing to individuals who have lawfully obtained an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Updating this language in our statute would also align with national trends: states have in recent years been opening up licensure via an ITIN - for example, in New Jersey, California, Nevada and Arizona.

Maryland is home to a large immigrant community: according to the American Immigration Council, one in seven Maryland residents is an immigrant - or, almost one million individuals comprising 15% of the population. According to the Migration Policy Institute, there are an estimated 225,000 undocumented immigrants in Maryland; 2,000 undocumented students

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

graduate Maryland high schools each year, and almost 10,000 undocumented students currently attend state institutions of higher education. Many of these students are pursuing careers in fields that require licensure, such as health occupations.

There are pathways for these individuals to be employed by using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), including by starting their own business or co-op. In 2018, 66,350 immigrant business owners accounted for 23 percent of all self-employed Maryland residents and generated \$1.7 billion in business income. According to the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, there are 237,845 undocumented immigrants in the state - 15,485 of them who are DACA eligible. The spending power of *just* the DACA eligible population is over \$285 million, with a state tax contribution of \$36 million. By replacing the SSN requirement with an ITIN, this bill would expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth.

Maryland has made good strides in providing a measure of opportunity to these communities. Since the Dream Act referendum of 2012, Maryland provides in-state tuition rates for undocumented immigrants at any state college or university. Since 2019, all residents, regardless of immigration status, have also been able to use the Community College Promise Scholarship to attend community college tuition-free. As of the 2022-2023 school year, children of undocumented residents are also eligible for state financial aid and scholarships. The requirement for an SSN on occupational licensure applications does not align with recent directions in State policy, of offering in-state tuition to undocumented students, and stimulus assistance to non-citizens. Maryland is losing its investment in these populations by prohibiting them gainful employment in professions they have trained for and that have been subsidized by the State.

Broadening access to employment for qualified individuals will not only benefit immigrant families and the state of Maryland economically, but will also improve public safety, as healthcare workers will be more likely to seek out certification instead of circumventing it due to the SSN requirements. And, this bill will ensure more equitable service for our communities, as research has shown that diversity in health professions can increase cultural competence and decrease implicit bias.

For these reasons, **we strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

For more information, contact:

Ioana Stoica / Policy Advocate / ioana@jotf.org / 240-643-0059

SB 187- Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificate

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 187- Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Position: *Support*
February 7, 2023
Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 187.

Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. The report recommends policymakers remove barriers for internationally educated nurses to ensure the state can tap into all potential sources to hire more nurses.

Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants make up 39% of Maryland's hospital workforce.¹ The latest hospital data from Q3 2022 show nursing and medical positions (RNs, NPs, MDs, etc.) have an employee vacancy rate of 19.3%—a 59.6% increase between Q1 2021 and Q3 2022. These vacancies mean fewer caregivers at the bedside, limiting capacity to care for patients. Removing barriers for internationally educated nurses will increase the number of experienced nurses in the state and help retain health care workers by reducing the high vacancy rates.

Senate Bill 187 ensures every qualified health care professional can apply for a license to practice in Maryland. This legislation will make the state more competitive by removing a significant barrier for internationally educated nurses. The sponsor's amendments allow alternative identification to be used to obtain a health occupations license, including an individual taxpayer identification number or alternative documentation as permitted by the federal Social Security Act. The amendments also prohibit the health occupations boards from requiring a SSN or ITIN as a condition of licensure or certification if the applicant does not have one.

Currently the Maryland Board of Nursing requires a SSN to apply for a license.² This means internationally educated nurses cannot apply to take the national licensing exam from their home countries like they can in other states. For an international nurse to work in Maryland they must

¹ MHA Workforce Survey – January 2023

² Maryland Board of Nursing. (2012). "[International Application Instructions for Graduates of Schools Outside the United States.](#)"

first obtain a license in another state and then endorse their license here. This is a lengthy and expensive process and encourages nurses to seek licensure in other states with fewer barriers.

By allowing internationally educated nurses to obtain their initial license in Maryland, we can lower expenses incurred by these nurses and decrease the amount of time they spend waiting to deliver care at the bedside. Other states randomly assign a nine-digit number or require a signed affidavit to be used as a placeholder until the SSN can be provided.³ These are effective strategies that Maryland could use too.

Maryland hospitals are hiring internationally educated nurses. Last week, one community hospital welcomed the first three of 65 international nurses. These nurses are experienced and bring diversity through language, culture, and experience to our health care workforce. In a time when the health care workforce is struggling, legislation like SB 187 can make a significant difference and support Maryland hospitals across the state.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report on SB 187.

For more information, please contact:
Jane Krienke, Senior Legislative Analyst
jkrienke@mhaonline.org

³State examples: Use a generated number to apply but require SSN before issuing the license (FL, NY, NV, TX, SD). Require signed affidavit that as soon as an individual becomes eligible for a SSN, he or she will provide the Board with the SSN. Failure to comply results in the license not being renewed ([DC](#), [DE](#), [IL](#)). Utilize an ITIN instead of an SSN ([CA](#)).

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB187.pdf

Uploaded by: Janelle Wong

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB187

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

To: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Janelle Wong

Date: February 6, 2023

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 immigrants who face barriers to work authorization 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.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, there are an estimated 225,000 immigrants in Maryland who face restrictions on licensure. I am the current Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park and have advocated for the expansion of immigrant rights, including for many Asian American immigrants. Many of these students are pursuing careers in fields that require licensure, including in health occupations.

As an educator and a state resident, I strongly SUPPORT SB187 and **I strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill SB187.**

SB187 Licenses Certs and Registrations - Immigrant

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: FAV

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Jeanette Ortiz
Associate Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: SB187 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Johns Hopkins supports **SB187 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - 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 to expand the healthcare workforce which in turn expands access to health care to its patients and citizens across the State. Regrettably, Johns Hopkins continues to experience workforce challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly strained and overwhelmed our health care system as well as our health care providers. Our staff and health care workers have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic every day, while also ensuring the provision of excellent care to our patients. Allowing immigrants who meet specified criteria to obtain a license, certification, or registration this legislation, while not a panacea, is one tool to help mitigate these workforce shortages. Expanding access to occupational licensure will also provide relief to critical healthcare professions negatively impacted by such labor shortages.

Johns Hopkins is proud of its history of serving and supporting individuals regardless of immigration status. For example, The Access Partnership (“TAP”) of Johns Hopkins Medicine provides access to effective, compassionate, evidence-based primary and specialty care for uninsurable residents of the East Baltimore community surrounding The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, with demonstrated financial need. In fact, TAP is the largest and most successful program in the State providing care to undocumented Marylanders. The passage of SB187 could greatly expand the pool of immigrants providing care for underserved communities and our most vulnerable citizens.

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 8,000 international students, faculty, and researchers,

hailing from more than 120 nations. Immigrants grace every corner of our academic footprint, from

Government and Community Affairs

our most senior leadership positions to resident halls, labs, classrooms, and hospitals. Maryland should look to every common-sense resource available to help address healthcare workforce shortages in the State.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB187**.

CAN Testimony - Immigrant Health Occupations Licen

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 187:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations -
Immigrants**

TO: Hon. Melony Griffith, chair, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

DATE: February 6, 2023

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 0187, Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**, on behalf of the [Congregation Action Network](#). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With over 75 congregations and a thousand members throughout the capital area, including over 25 congregations with thousands of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with the constitutionally established jurisdiction of licensing authorities, with Maryland's economic interest, with national trends, and with the state's investment in the immigrant community. **The Congregation Action Network strongly supports Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding health occupations licensure to our immigrant community, of recouping investment in educational opportunities our state has funded, and of equitably serving our increasingly diverse population.**

Maryland is home to a large immigrant community: according to the American Immigration Council, one in seven Maryland residents is an immigrant - or, almost one million individuals comprising 15% of the population. Maryland has made good strides in providing a measure of opportunity to these communities, for example, by expanding in-state tuition and free community college access to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status.

However, by not allowing all immigrants to obtain an occupational license that they are otherwise qualified for, the State is not only losing the contributions of immigrants who could otherwise work and pay higher taxes, but is wrongly denying opportunity to fellow Maryland residents.

Expanding access to occupational licensing for immigrants would align with developments in other states that have expanded access, and that have reciprocity agreements for licensure with



faith. love. liberation.

fe. amor. Liberación.

Maryland. An individual does not need a Social Security Number to apply for licensure in New Jersey, for instance, a state with multiple licensure reciprocity agreements with Maryland.

Occupational licensing boards are not immigration enforcement authorities; their purview is simply to determine if an individual possesses all qualifications to perform and safely serve the public in a particular profession. Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, increase economic activity, and provide equity of access to **all** Maryland residents. **We strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Kickenson
Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator
Congregation Action Network
% 1701 Ladd Street
Silver Spring, MD 20902

SB0187.pdf

Uploaded by: Jonathan Dayton

Position: FAV



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Melony Griffith

February 6, 2023

Senate Bill 187: Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 187, Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants.

MRHA believes that all the current healthcare workforce shortage in Maryland is putting the health and safety of Marylanders at risk. According to the 2022 Maryland Health Care Workforce Report published by the Maryland Hospital Association’s Task Force on Maryland’s Future Health Workforce, the current number of RNs can only meet 91% of the demand for services. This is projected to shrink to only 80% of demand by 2035.¹ This trend holds for other health professionals. Workforce shortages lead to burnout and dissatisfaction among employees, and it can lead to errors being made by professional which can lead to higher rates or morbidity and mortality.²

According to the MHA report, one recommendation to address this crisis is to remove barriers for internationally trained professionals to join the workforce. Supporting this legislation does just that. By expanding Maryland’s healthcare workforce, we can ensure all Marylanders are able to receive the best possible health care.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director

jdayton@mdruralhealth.org

¹ Maryland Hospital Association. (2022). (rep.). 2022 STATE OF MARYLAND’S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE REPORT . Retrieved February 6, 2023, from <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>.

² Haddad LM, Annamaraju P, Toney-Butler TJ. Nursing Shortage. [Updated 2022 Feb 22]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-.

^[1] Maryland Hospital Association. (2022). (rep.). 2022 STATE OF MARYLAND'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE REPORT . Retrieved February 6, 2023, from <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>.

^[2] Haddad LM, Annamaraju P, Toney-Butler TJ. Nursing Shortage. [Updated 2022 Feb 22]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-.

HFAM Testimony SB 187.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 7, 2023

Senate Bill 187: Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants
Written Testimony Only

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 187. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 187 prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration.

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 facing a healthcare workforce crisis that predates the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic dramatically worsened the workforce shortage and proved 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 healthcare jobs and growing careers focused specifically on underserved communities. We must also acknowledge that there are countless examples demonstrating that immigrants are the backbone that built much of this country, including in healthcare.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 187.

Submitted by:

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

SB187 FAV Testimony - Doctors for Camp Closure.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV

Doctors for Camp Closure



doctorsforcampclosure@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187: Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

TO: Chair Melony Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Kate Sugarman, Doctors for Camp Closure

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2023

My name is Kate Sugarman and I am a leader with the Maryland chapter of Doctors for Camp Closure. Our mission is to end the inhumane treatment of those coming to our borders, asking for our help, and to meet immigrants with compassion, dignity, and a fair, efficient application process. Our goal is to protect the health of applicants, the sanctity of the family bond, and the virtue of an honest, transparent application for legal entry to the US carried out in a manner that sufficiently protects the most vulnerable. As physicians, we recognize how important it is for immigrants to be able to work and to be economically self-sufficient, which is why we strongly support Senate Bill 0187.

Current Maryland law requires all applicants for occupational licensure to provide a Social Security Number; however, this requirement is not aligned with the constitutionally established jurisdiction of licensing authorities, with Maryland's economic interest, with national trends, and with the state's investment in the immigrant community. **Doctors for Camp Closure strongly supports Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding occupational licensure to our immigrant community, of recouping investment in educational opportunities our state has funded, and of equitably serving our increasingly diverse population.**

Maryland is home to a large immigrant community: according to the American Immigration Council, one in seven Maryland residents is an immigrant - or, almost one million individuals comprising 15% of the population. Maryland has made good strides in providing a measure of opportunity to these communities, for example, by expanding in-state tuition and free community college access to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status.

However, by not allowing all immigrants to obtain an occupational license that they are otherwise qualified for, the State is losing its investment as businesses lose not only competent labor, but on revenue. According to the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, there are 237,845

Doctors for Camp Closure



doctorsforcampclosure@gmail.com

undocumented immigrants in the state - 15,485 of them who are DACA eligible. The spending power of just the DACA eligible population is over \$285 million, with a tax contribution of \$36 million.

Expanding access to occupational licensing for immigrants would not only be in the State's best economic interest, it would align with developments in other states that have expanded access, and that have reciprocity agreements for licensure with Maryland. An individual does not need a Social Security Number to apply for licensure in New Jersey, a state with multiple licensure reciprocity agreements with Maryland.

Occupational licensing boards are not immigration enforcement authorities; their purview is simply to determine if an individual possesses all qualifications to perform and safely serve the public in a particular profession. Maryland should follow the lead of other states that have removed Social Security Number requirements from licensing applications, and thus expand the labor pool in our State, and unlock untapped potential for economic growth. **We strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Sugarman

SB187_MoCo_Frey_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 187

DATE: February 7, 2023

SPONSOR: Senator Kagan

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Family Law-Article §119.3 currently requires the disclosure of a Social Security number when an applicant applies for an occupational or recreational license from the State. This section of State law is to ensure that the licensee or applicant for a license is not in arrears for paying child support, however, the same verification can be performed by the Maryland Department of Human Services if the applicant submits an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) rather than a Social Security number (SSN) if they do not have one. Senate Bill 187 allows for the substitution of an ITIN for the SSN for applicants for a health occupations license- this would enable an otherwise qualified Maryland resident who has an ITIN to receive a health occupations license.

Montgomery County government supports the occupational licensing of Maryland residents who hold ITINs and is particularly interested in legislative solutions to increase the number of linguistically and culturally competent health care, behavioral health, and social service professionals serving County residents, including efforts to facilitate career pathways and reduce unnecessary professional licensure barriers. Montgomery County, as a provider of direct services to County residents in addition to being a funder of services for many community providers, has acutely felt the need to improve access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental and behavioral health providers for residents across the State. The shortage of such providers has resulted in long wait times for residents to access mental health care from providers who share common cultural backgrounds or who speak languages preferred by those seeking mental health treatment. Research has shown that “[c]ultural and linguistic competence in the delivery of mental health services can have a profound effect on access to and quality of care among ethnic/racial minorities. Vital for the delivery of such services is a diverse workforce that also represents the population.”¹ Senate Bill 187 is a tool to enable trained health care providers who can help meet these needs of our state’s residents to enter the health care workforce as licensed professionals.

Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 187.

¹ Marquine, MJ and Jimenez, D. *Cultural and linguistic proficiency in mental health care: a crucial aspect of professional competence*. Int Psychogeriatr. 2020 Jan; 32(1): 1–3. Accessed at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7755080/>

Health care licensure_Kagan_SB0187.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio

Position: FAV

From: **Sen. Cheryl Kagan** cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us
Subject: Would you testify?
Date: February 2, 2023 at 12:21 PM
To: lenagonio@icloud.com

SK

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

—
Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

—
Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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

February 2, 2023

As you surely know, we are facing a crisis-level shortage of qualified health care professionals.

I have reintroduced my 2022 bill (that passed the Senate but ran out of time in the House of Delegates) to allow qualified health care professionals who are immigrants to bring their expertise to Maryland. This year's bill, (**SB187**) would prohibit a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure. Many other states (including California, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, and New Jersey) have already enacted legislation to expand occupational licensure, regardless of immigration status.

SB187 would:

- Address the crisis-level shortage of health care workers
- Create continuity for those training in state to transition to careers
- Allow someone with a work permit living out of State (or out of the country!) to be granted a Maryland license and provide care

I would appreciate your support on this important legislation. Could you testify in person, online via video, or submit a written statement? Testimony would need to be submitted on Monday.

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th, at 1pm in the Senate Finance Committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Legislative Aide, Garrett Beloff, at 301-858-3134 or cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us.

Thanks again for your interest in this important public health bill.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

Cheryl

Cheryl C. Kagan

Cheryl C. Kagan
State Senator, District 17
(Gaithersburg & Rockville)
www.CherylKagan.org

P.S.: The hearing is coming up on Tuesday; I'd love to hear back from you by Friday so we can be sure that your testimony is uploaded on Monday! Thanks.



By Authority: Citizens Helping Elect Cheryl Kagan (C.H.E.C.K.), Michael Frazier, Chair; Neil Burka, Treasurer.

Sen. Cheryl Kagan | Vice Chair, Education, Energy, Environment (& Elections!) Committee | 2W Miller
Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

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Sent by cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us powered by



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Nash MMC Testimony SB 187 Health Occupations Immig

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

SB 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants -
February 8, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am the Communications Director for the Maryland Military Coalition. I am a retired nurse, who completed over 30 years of active-duty service in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I am well acquainted with the issue.

No one wants to have a health care professional taking care of them or their loved ones who isn't competent and cannot read and write in the English language. This bill prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the requirements. For those unaware, the requirements for licensure of a foreign graduate are extensive. The applicant must:

- [Meet the educational requirements](#)
- [Complete a foreign-educated nurses \(FEN\) course](#)
- [Take and pass an English language proficiency test, if mandated](#)
- [Pass the state's National Council Licensing Examination-Registered Nurse \(NCLEX – RN\)](#)
- [Obtain credential evaluation](#)
- [Find a nursing recruiting agency or US-based employer](#)
- [Apply and obtain an RN immigrant visa/green card](#)

These requirements are all-encompassing and ensure that the applicant has the competencies needed to practice safely and can communicate both orally and in writing in the English language. As such, this legislation makes sense, especially in light of the current shortage of providers here in the state.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a **voluntary**, non-partisan **organization representing 19 veteran service organizations**, who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition **strongly supports** Senate Bill SB 187 – Health

Page 2

SB 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants -**FAVORABLE**

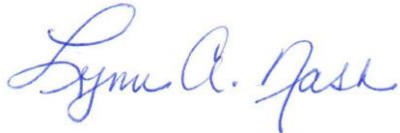
1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517

February 8, 2023

Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants and asks for your ***favorable report.***

Thank you to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation.

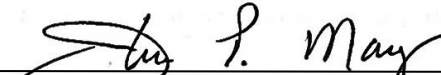
Respectfully,

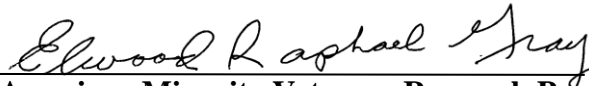
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director
Maryland Military Coalition


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

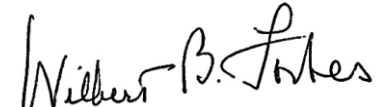

Air Force Sergeants Association

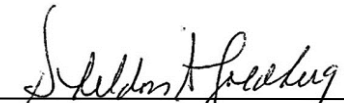

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

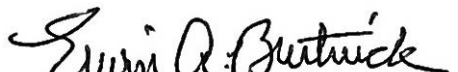

Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service



Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association



Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association


Military Officers Association of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart



Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

Nash SB 187 - MMC Written Support of SB 187 Health

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 8, 2023

Chair Melanie Griffith
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants -
Request for Favorable Report

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the Maryland Military Coalition's Communications Director, I am requesting your **favorable report** on SB 187.

For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am a retired nurse, who completed over 30 years of active-duty service in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I am well acquainted with the issue.

This bill prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the requirements. For those unaware, the requirements for licensure are extensive. The applicant must:

- [Meet the educational requirements](#)
- [Complete a foreign-educated nurses \(FEN\) course](#)
- [Take and pass an English language proficiency test, if mandated](#)
- [Pass the state's National Council Licensing Examination-Registered Nurse \(NCLEX – RN\)](#)
- [Obtain credential evaluation](#)
- [Find a nursing recruiting agency or US-based employer](#)
- [Apply and obtain an RN immigrant visa/green card](#)

These requirements are all encompassing to ensure that the applicant has the competencies needed to practice safely. As such, this legislation makes sense, especially in light of the current shortage of providers here in the state.


SB 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants
February 8, 2023
Page 2

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **voluntary**, non-partisan **organization representing 19 veteran service organizations**, who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families.

The Coalition ***strongly supports*** Senate Bill 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants and asks for your ***favorable report***.

Thank you to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

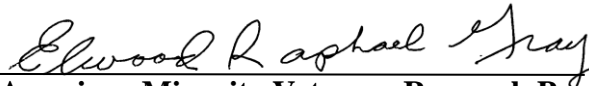
Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

MMC Member Organizations Signature Page follows


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

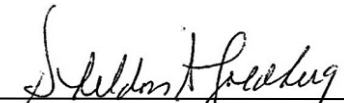

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

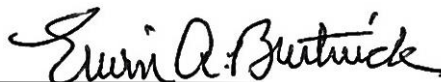

Association of the United States Navy



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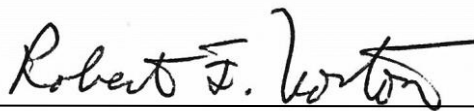

Disabled American Veterans

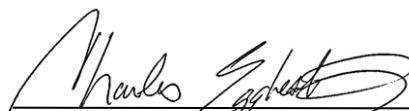

Distinguished Flying Cross Association



Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


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Association


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Military Order of the Purple Heart


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National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


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Society of Military Widows

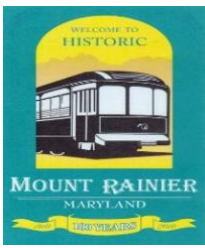

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB187

Health Occupati

Uploaded by: Mayor Celina Benitez

Position: FAV



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 2071 Telephone: (301) 985-6585: Fax (301) 985-6595

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB187 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

To: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier
Date: Monday, February 06, 2023

As Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier, I have led efforts to make the city a welcoming environment for all residents, including our vibrant immigrant community, to make sure through actions and legislation that they know they belong and they are valued. As a first-generation immigrant whose family instilled the importance of giving back, I have always been an advocate for civil rights and for the empowerment of minority groups. Throughout my career in political advocacy for immigrant's rights, I have connected my personal history with the broader cause of justice. These are some of the reasons that **Senate Bill 187** is deeply personal for me, and why I **strongly urge you to support this bill as a means of expanding employment opportunities to our immigrant community, and of equitably serving our increasingly diverse population and by doing so benefiting all of Maryland.**

Mount Rainier is a thriving diverse community of over eight-thousand residents. Our city values the contribution of all our residents equally, and benefits when access to employment is expanded to all. Having our residents employed also means they can provide for their families and continue to contribute to paying taxes and being involved in our community. Studies show that individuals benefit when they receive services from a workforce reflecting their community, and that trust and public safety are increased when residents receive culturally and linguistically appropriate assistance. The Pandemic has brought to light what we already knew there is a he great need of medical professionals and SB187 would help us bridge that gap. The individual would meet all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration.

Statewide, according to the Migration Policy Institute, an estimated 225,000 undocumented immigrants reside in Maryland. 2,000 undocumented students graduate Maryland high schools each year, and almost 10,000 undocumented students currently attend state institutions of higher education. Many of these students are pursuing careers in fields that require licensure, such as health occupations and childcare. Fields that are urgently in need of more personnel in order to serve Marylanders. Maryland currently offers in-state tuition and free community college to these individuals, yet does not allow them to pursue gainful employment, thus losing its investment in these communities. We cannot continue closing the doors and having talented people leave our state.

I have seen firsthand immigrants striving through tremendous challenges, such as surviving a civil war, just as I did, to pursue better lives for themselves and their families and give back to their community. There is a deep need in today's workforce for the innovation and work ethic many in these communities bring to the table. It is time for our State to follow the lead of states like California, Colorado, and New Jersey in expanding access to employment through occupational licensure to individuals who have lawfully obtained a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and in doing so be true to our core values. The TIN achieves the same purpose as a Social Security the ability to report taxes. Employed Marylanders are a Win for all!

The Office of the Mayor of Mount Rainier strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 187.
please don't hesitate to contact me MayorBenitez@MountRainierMD.org should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Celina Benitez

Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier, Maryland
First Latina Mayor of The City of Mount Rainier
First Latina Mayor of a City in the State of Maryland

2023 - Senate Bill 187 TaxID Bill for health worke

Uploaded by: Michael David

Position: FAV

SENATE BILL 187

C2, J2
SB 523/22 – EHE

3lr0374
CF 3lr0722

By: **Senator Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a health occupations board from denying a license,
4 certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets certain
5 requirements; requiring each health occupations board to require each applicant for
6 a license to disclose the Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification
7 Number of the applicant and record the number on the application; and generally
8 relating to applications for health occupations licenses, certifications, or
9 registrations by immigrants.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Family Law
12 Section 10–119.3(a) and (c)(1)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Family Law
17 Section 10–119.3(b), (c)(2), and (d)(1)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Health Occupations
22 Section 1–227
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
26 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Family Law**

2 10–119.3.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) “License” means any license, certificate, registration, permit, or other
5 authorization that:

6 (i) is issued by a licensing authority;

7 (ii) is subject to suspension, revocation, forfeiture, or termination by
8 a licensing authority; and

9 (iii) is necessary for an individual to practice or engage in:

10 1. a particular business, occupation, or profession; or

11 2. recreational hunting or fishing.

12 (3) (i) “Licensing authority” means a department, unit of a department,
13 commission, board, office, or court of the State.

14 (ii) “Licensing authority” includes:

15 1. the Maryland Department of Labor;

16 2. the Maryland Department of Health;

17 3. the Department of Human Services;

18 4. the Department of Transportation;

19 5. the Department of the Environment;

20 6. the Comptroller of the Treasury;

21 7. the Department of Agriculture;

22 8. the Maryland Insurance Administration;

23 9. the Public Service Commission;

24 10. the Secretary of State;

25 11. the State Department of Education;

1 12. the Department of Natural Resources;

2 13. the Office of the Attorney General;

3 14. the clerks of the court that are authorized to issue a license
4 or certificate for professional services or recreational uses; and

5 15. the Court of Appeals.

6 (b) (1) Except as provided in [paragraph] PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) of this
7 subsection, a licensing authority shall:

8 (i) require each applicant for a license to disclose the Social Security
9 number of the applicant; and

10 (ii) record the applicant's Social Security number on the application.

11 (2) The Department of Natural Resources shall:

12 (i) require an applicant for a recreational hunting or fishing license
13 to disclose only the last four digits of the Social Security number of the applicant instead of
14 the full Social Security number; and

15 (ii) record the applicant's partial Social Security number on the
16 application.

17 **(3) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SHALL:**

18 **(I) REQUIRE EACH APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE TO DISCLOSE**
19 **THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION**
20 **NUMBER OF THE APPLICANT; AND**

21 **(II) RECORD THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR**
22 **INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON THE APPLICATION.**

23 (c) (1) To carry out its responsibility under State and federal law, the
24 Administration may request from a licensing authority information concerning any obligor
25 in arrears in paying child support through a support enforcement agency.

26 (2) A request for information by the Administration under paragraph (1) of
27 this subsection:

28 (i) shall contain:

29 1. the full name of the obligor; and

1 2. the Social Security number or, as appropriate, the partial
2 Social Security number **OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER** of the
3 obligor; and

4 (ii) may be transmitted to a licensing authority using an electronic
5 format.

6 (d) (1) Upon receipt of a request for information under subsection (c) of this
7 section, a licensing authority shall submit the following information to the Administration
8 with respect to each obligor who is licensed by, or has applied for a license from, the
9 licensing authority:

10 (i) the full name of the obligor;

11 (ii) the address of the obligor, if known;

12 (iii) the Social Security number or, as appropriate, the partial Social
13 Security number **OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER** of the obligor,
14 if known; and

15 (iv) a description of the license held by the obligor.

16 **Article – Health Occupations**

17 **1–227.**

18 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “IMMIGRANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:**

19 **(1) WHOSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE**
20 **UNITED STATES;**

21 **(2) WHO IS NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES; AND**

22 **(3) WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE.**

23 **(B) A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD MAY NOT DENY A LICENSE,**
24 **CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION TO AN IMMIGRANT IF THE INDIVIDUAL**
25 **OTHERWISE MEETS ALL EDUCATIONAL, TRAINING, OR PROFESSIONAL**
26 **REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2023.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0187.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 07, 2023

SB 187

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 187 prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the relevant educational, training, or professional requirements for the profession. The bill defines "immigrant" as an individual (1) whose country of origin is a country other than the United States; (2) who is not a citizen of the United States; and (3) who is a Maryland resident. The bill also authorizes the use of an individual taxpayer identification number for licensing purposes by specifying that each health occupations board must require each applicant for a license to disclose the applicant's Social Security number (as required under current law) or individual taxpayer identification number and making other related changes under the Family Law Article.

The Catholic Catechism instructs the faithful that good government has two duties, both of which must be carried out and neither of which can be ignored. The first duty is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to immigrate and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially financially blessed nations: *"The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him."* Catholic Catechism, 2241. Therefore, the Conference strongly supports legislation that supports the dignity of immigrants and their families.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for Senate Bill 187.

MDSB0187_Testimony_Support_AmericanImmigrationCoun

Uploaded by: Mo Kantner

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187:

Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Mo Kantner, Director, State & Local Initiatives, American Immigration Council

DATE: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

My name is Mo Kantner, and I am the Director of State and Local Initiatives at the American Immigration Council (the Council), an organization that works to advance positive public attitudes and create a more welcoming America—one that provides a fair process for immigrants and adopts immigration laws and policies that take into account the needs of the U.S. economy.

I am testifying to express support for removing barriers that keep qualified Maryland residents from successfully applying for professional and occupational licenses. To this end, I respectfully encourage the passage of SB 0187, which would reduce barriers to career advancement for all Marylanders, including immigrants and refugees.

My organization has worked with leaders in government, business, and civil society across the country to recognize the crucial role immigrants are playing in state and local economies, including in some of the fastest-growing and most in-demand fields like healthcare, education, and social work. In order to remain competitive and meet critical workforce shortages, Maryland will need to implement policies that not only attract and retain immigrant talent that complements U.S.-born workers, but also build career pathways for the immigrants and refugees already living in the state.

One way to achieve this goal is to expand access to professional and occupational licenses for non-citizens. Maryland licensing boards can currently prohibit many non-citizens from obtaining occupational licenses, certificates, and registrations in high-demand fields solely due to their immigration status. SB 0187 would remove such barriers, thereby expanding economic opportunity for all residents and helping to meet the state's pressing workforce needs.

To help illustrate why this measure is so important, and why it makes sense to reduce barriers for all qualified Maryland residents, my organization has conducted quantitative research on the impact immigrants and refugees already have on the state. What we found is striking. According to American Immigration Council analysis of 2019 American Community Survey and Lightcast Labor Insights data:

- **As of 2019, Maryland is home to more than 922,441 immigrants, making up 15.3 percent of the state's population.** These new Americans are critical to addressing the state's workforce shortages across the skills and education spectrum, with 79.4 percent of immigrant Marylanders being of working age (ages 16-64) compared to 61.8 percent of their U.S.-born counterparts, and one in five immigrants holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

- **Maryland has a growing demand for healthcare workers, educators, and social workers**, all fields that have been critical in the state’s response and recovery from the ongoing COVID pandemic. The Council’s analysis has found that:
 - **From 2017 to 2021, Maryland saw a large increase in demand for healthcare support positions.** The demand for nursing assistants doubled (105.2 percent), MRI technologists increased by 101.8 percent, respiratory therapists increased by 96.4 percent, and licensed nursing practitioners increased by 93.3 percent.
 - **Job postings for elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers also increased during that same period.** The demand for elementary school teachers increased the most growing by 189.4 percent. Demand for kindergarten teachers increased by 121.4 percent, middle school teaching postings increased by 108.1 percent, and demand for secondary school positions increased by 107.7 percent.
 - **The need for social workers has also become apparent.** Job postings for social workers and healthcare social workers increased by increased 78.1 percent and 69.7 percent, respectively, between 2017 and 2021.
- **Despite barriers to entry, immigrants are already helping fill critical workforce shortages in high-need industries.** The Council’s research found that 28.8 percent of those employed in nursing related professions (e.g., RNs, LPNs, nursing assistants, and home health aides), 9.5 percent of workers in educational professions (elementary, middle, and secondary school) and 10.9 percent of workers employed in social work professions were born outside of the United States.

As Maryland continues to address the demand for workers across the skills and education spectrum, it is critical to retain and leverage this talent. More than a dozen states have taken similar steps to reduce barriers to professional and occupational licenses, including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, and Nevada. Maryland is in a position to take decisive action to support and leverage the skills of the state’s future workforce. I encourage the Committee to support the passage of SB 0187.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mo Kantner
 Director, State and Local Initiatives
 American Immigration Council

SB 0187- LWVMD- FAV- Health Occupations- Licenses-

Uploaded by: Nora Miller Smith

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SB 187: Health Occupations- Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations- Immigrants

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, President

DATE: February 7, 2023

The League of Women Voters Maryland supports **SB 187: Health Occupations- Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations- Immigrants**. This bill would allow qualified immigrants with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) to obtain healthcare licensure, 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. The League believes that immigration policies should not only be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises in their countries of origin, but that those policies should also meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States.

There is a healthcare workforce crisis in Maryland. Because of an aging healthcare workforce and burnout from the pressures of the pandemic, **the Maryland Hospital Association estimates¹ that one in every four hospital nursing positions is vacant.** Inadequate staffing can lead to delayed care, clogged emergency rooms, closed units, and failed discharge plans.

Maryland's healthcare needs are growing, with the Department of Aging estimating that **by 2040, there will be 1.79 million Marylanders over the age of 60.** Thus, along with more nurses, Maryland will need additional licensed healthcare workers such as Certified Medication Technicians and Certified Nursing Assistants to staff assisted living and senior care centers, skilled nursing and rehab facilities, adult day care centers, schools, group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities, community and behavioral health centers, and hospices.

One way to relieve the critical staffing shortage is by reducing existing barriers to obtaining licensure. At present, a Social Security number (SSN) is needed to obtain a healthcare license in Maryland. **But passage of Senate Bill 187 would modify that requirement, enabling qualified individuals who have met all educational requirements to use an ITIN to apply for their healthcare license.**

¹ <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>

The ITIN was created by the IRS to allow non-citizens to pay taxes even if their immigration status makes them ineligible for a Social Security number (SSN). **This includes individuals who are lawfully present in the U.S but who still don't qualify for a SSN.**

Undocumented immigrants pay taxes. In Maryland, almost 85% of undocumented immigrants are of working age (16-64). According to the American Immigration Council,² they paid \$377.5 million in federal taxes and \$262.4 million in state and local taxes in 2019. Undocumented immigrants contribute to our economy both as consumers and taxpayers, helping to fund programs such as Medicare and Social Security, despite being unable to benefit from them.

Undocumented immigrants are educated. According to the Migration Policy Institute,³ Maryland's undocumented immigrant population in 2019 was 225,000. Of adults age 25 or older, 56% had graduated from high school, attended some college, or had an associate's, bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree.

Immigration status is not a barrier to many state benefits. Undocumented immigrants can obtain Maryland driver's licenses, and with an ITIN are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

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. But without a social security number, these students, whose education and training may have been partially subsidized by the state, are unable to use that training to obtain professional licensure. This limits their ability to both advance in their profession, and to assist in meeting our growing workforce needs.

Maryland's healthcare facilities are suffering from a severe healthcare labor shortage, which 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 187 will enable qualified immigrant students with ITINs- some of whom are lawfully present in the U.S.- to obtain the healthcare licensure enabling them to work in their chosen profession, while helping to meet Maryland's urgent healthcare workforce needs.

The League and its 1,500+ members urge the committee to give a favorable report to SENATE BILL 187.

² <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/maryland/>

³ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/undocumented-immigrant-population/state/MD>

SB0187_FAV_MACHC_Health Occs. - Licenses, Certific

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 187 – *Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC **supports** Senate Bill 187.

Senate Bill 187 prohibits a professional board from denying a license to an immigrant if the person otherwise meets all educational, training, and professional requirements for licensure. An “immigrant” is defined 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 State’s workforce challenges have existed for some time but have been greatly exacerbated during the public health emergency. Passage of Senate Bill 187 serves two critical objectives. Not only will it provide employment opportunities for qualified health care practitioners, but it will also assist the State in addressing its workforce challenges. Because the bill will allow only fully qualified practitioners to become licensed, regardless of immigration status, patients are ensured that the practitioners meet the same standards of education and training as any other practitioner licensed in Maryland. Passage of Senate Bill 187 increases access to employment and health care services. MACHC urges a favorable report.

SB0187 - Supporting Testimony - Rachel Rowan (Teac

Uploaded by: Rachel Rowan

Position: FAV

February 6, 2023

Re: SB 0187, Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Dear Honorable State Senators,

My name is Rachel Rowan and I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of SB 0187, to extend healthcare-related professional and occupational licenses/certificates eligibility to include those who apply using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs).

As a Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) teacher working at the International High School at Langley Park, I have worked primarily with many high school seniors for the last 5 years. One class I teach is College and Career Research Development 1 (CCRD 1) and a big part of the class is to explore educational opportunities that help connect students to their post-secondary goals. While Social Studies is my primary content area, I expanded my practice after running college and financial aid application workshops for first-generation college students early in my career. **In my eleven years as an educator, I have seen directly that lack of access to a Social Security Number is a major barrier in reaching post-secondary goals for many Maryland high school students.**

The state of Maryland has done some excellent work to help students, regardless of their Social Security or immigration status, access financial aid for credit and non-credit opportunities at our public higher education institutions over the last decade. For students who do not have a Social Security Number, MSFAA has opened the door to community college and workforce training programs. I help every student set up an MDCAPs account and work closely with Professional School Counselors to help individuals make decisions about what comes next after graduation.

In discussing financial aid options, many students want to work in the shortage areas covered by the [Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant](#). One of the most popular areas for future career interest is in healthcare: working as Registered Nurses, Medical Assistants, Radiology Technicians, and more. After completing qualifying training or education, however, students who do not have Social Security numbers cannot access the necessary credentials to work in their field of choice. **Passing SB0187 will allow Maryland students with ITINs to access the healthcare career ambitions they dream of as high school seniors. It will also align to financial and higher education opportunities already made available through the MDCAPs.**

I hope you consider this bill and pass any similar law expanding career access to residents of the state of Maryland so that students across this state can give back to their communities, the local economy, and built better lives for themselves and their families

Sincerely,



Rachel Rowan

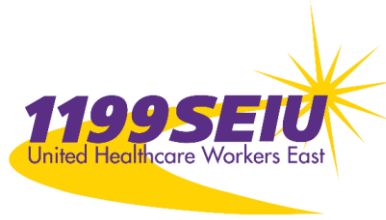
rachel.e.rowan@gmail.com

386-295-8173

SB 187 - Healthcare License - Immigrants.pdf

Uploaded by: ricarra jones

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

TO: Honorable Senator Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation – representing 10,000 healthcare workers in long-term care facilities and hospitals across Maryland.

1199 SEIU stands with our immigrant members and supports SB 187 to expand healthcare licensure to the immigrant community for the following reasons:

1. Maryland is experiencing a **serious staffing crisis** that is impacting the quality of care for patients. By not allowing all immigrants to have access to health occupational licenses that they are qualified for, the State is losing its investment as businesses lose not only revenue, but also competent and much-needed labor.
2. Increasing educational pipelines to health occupations for all students will be essential to address the staffing crisis. According to the Migration Policy Institute, there are an estimated [225,000 undocumented immigrants in Maryland](#); 2,000 undocumented students graduate Maryland high schools each year, and almost [10,000 undocumented students](#) currently attend state institutions of higher education. Many of these students are pursuing careers in fields that require licensure, such as health occupations. There are pathways for these individuals to be employed in the United States by using an ITIN including starting their own business or co-op.
3. Expanding access to health occupational licensing for immigrants would not only be in the State's best economic interest, but it would align with developments in other states that have expanded access, such as New Jersey—an individual does not need a Social Security Number to apply for licensure there.
4. Occupational licensing boards are not immigration enforcement authorities; their purpose is simply to determine if an individual possesses all qualifications to perform and safely serve the public in a particular profession.

The care work our 1199 members do every day has been undervalued due to the intersecting legacies of racism, sexism, and xenophobia. We hope legislators will stand against xenophobia and remove barriers to expand the labor pool in the State. We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 187.

In Unity,

Ricarra Jones

Political Director, ricarra.jones@1199.org

SB 187 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificat

Uploaded by: Robin McKinney

Position: FAV



SB 187 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants
Senate Finance Committee
February 7th, 2023
SUPPORT

Chairwoman Griffith, Vice-Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 187. This bill will help immigrant workers to have health occupational licenses, certifications, or registrations.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

Currently, immigrants that complete all requirements for a particular license can be denied based on immigrant status. This limits careers available to immigrant communities. These careers include ones in the healthcare field, which have a salary range between \$30,000 and \$80,000. Expanding access to health occupational licensure will increase the immigrant population access to stable careers, entrepreneurship, and jobs that foster communities.

Stable careers provide individuals a stable income and combats economic instability. This will provide families a greater opportunity to keep stable housing, have access to proper nutrition, and provide for basic necessities.

The pandemic has caused financial crisis across many communities by endangering entire industries. The immigrant community felt this significant impact, and by increasing their access to licensed careers, they can have a greater opportunity to overcome the financial strain caused by COVID-19.

SB 187 will improve the economic stability of immigrant families by:

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

For these reasons, we encourage a favorable report on SB 187.

Creating Assets, Savings and Hope

2023 ACNM SB 187 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill number: SB 187 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Hearing Date: February 7, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*. The bill removes unnecessary barriers to individuals becoming licensed or certified under a health occupation boards.

Under the current law, health occupation boards appear to be required to obtain a social security number for applicants for licensure or certification. This statutory requirement is a de facto requirement for citizenship, even though there are many health care practitioners who are legal immigrants in this country. Given the shortage of health professionals in virtually every field, we should be removing unnecessary barriers to licensure.

In addition, we need our health care workforce to be more reflective of the communities they serve. By creating a pathway for more foreign-born health professionals to become licensed or certified in Maryland, Maryland will be in a better position to serve our state’s diverse communities.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

2023 MCHS SB 187 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 187 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants
Hearing Date:	February 7, 2023
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 187 - Health Occupations - 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. This bill would also permit an individual tax identification number (ITIN) to be used in the event the applicant does not have a social security number (SSN).

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and oral health care services to underserved communities. 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 few years and will likely remain even as we begin to navigate a post-pandemic world. This bill would provide more flexibility for federally qualified health centers to recruit two types of individuals who can work in the U.S. legally: 1) clinical students who are graduating and wish to remain in the U.S. to work; and 2) foreign-born clinicians who are willing to relocate to Maryland.

In addition, we would like to note that federally qualified health centers serve many immigrant communities. This legislation gives us the opportunity to employ clinicians who have strong connection with the communities they serve.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net

2023 MDAC SB 187 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215
Columbia, Maryland 21046
www.mdac.us

To: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 187 – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

Date: February 7, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Committee supports *Senate Bill 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*. The bill removes certain barriers to licensure for foreign-born health care practitioners who meet Maryland licensure requirements.

MDAC supports this legislation as part of a broader strategy to address health care professional shortages. Maryland has 62 areas considered dental provider shortage areas, also known as health professional shortage areas. We need an estimated 348 more dentists to meet the oral health needs of Marylanders.ⁱ

In this time of severe health professional shortages, we should be looking for every opportunity to recruit and retain qualified practitioners. Maryland law already allows for a limited license for foreign-trained dentists. However, qualified applicants may still face barriers license if they do not yet have a social security or individual tax identification number (ITIN).

Now more than ever, we need every qualified dental provider. Just one month ago, Maryland Medicaid began its adult dental coverage program to serve about 800,000 adults in Maryland. This coverage initiative was made possible by the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Hogan through joint legislative and budget action during the 2022 session. This is a tremendous opportunity to improve the health of Marylanders, but we need more dentists to serve Medicaid participants.

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

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

ⁱ <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/dental-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

2023 MNA SB 187 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 187 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Hearing Date: February 7, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) strongly supports Senate Bill 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants. The bill would remove an unnecessary barrier to licensure for nurses.

In a review of the national data from the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing, at least 19 states do not require social security number for nursing licensure. Those states include a diverse range such as: Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Texas.ⁱ

Maryland’s law under Family Article § 10-119.3 requires social security numbers for all occupational licensure. This requirement creates significant barriers for at least two groups of nurses and nursing students who can legally reside in the U.S.:

- Maryland hospitals encounter great difficulty in recruiting foreign-born nurses. Instead of moving directly to Maryland, a foreign-born nurse must obtain a license from another state and then obtain licensure in Maryland through a reciprocity arrangement known as endorsement. This cumbersome arrangement means that Maryland is losing foreign-born nurses to other states, exacerbated our state’s nursing professional shortage which has reached a crisis level;

- Foreign-born nursing students who are in the U.S. on student visas may have difficulty obtaining certification as nursing assistants, thus denying them the ability to gain valuable clinical experience while in school. Foreign-born graduates from Maryland nursing schools also face barriers remaining in Maryland to become a licensed registered nurse. These nursing graduates may either return to their home country or seek licensure in another state.

The bill will resolve this issue by modifying Family Article § 10-119.3 to allow applicants to have a social security number, individual tax identification number (ITIN), or alternative documentation as allowable under federal law. After getting licensed, an individual must notify the board once they obtain a social security number or ITIN. This proposed language change would open Maryland's doors to qualified foreign-born nurses who are legally able to work in the U.S., but cannot obtain a nursing license in Maryland.

We have reviewed the sponsor's amendments which are clarifying in nature. We ask for the Committee to adopt these amendments and move favorably on the bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ https://www.ncsbn.org/public-files/2021_Licensure_Survey.pdf

SB187-PPP on behalf of DonGraham-FAV

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Public Policy Partners

Bill: SB 187 – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

Date: February 7, 2023

We are writing to provide background information on *Senate Bill 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*. We compiled this information to assist our client, Mr. Don Graham, in his support of the bill. We thought it might be helpful to also share this information with the Committee.

The purpose of *SB 187* is to remove barriers to licensure or certification under a health occupations boards for people who are immigrants and otherwise meet Maryland’s licensure requirements. The bill supports health care facilities and programs in recruiting and retaining qualified health professionals. The bill also provides clarity for foreign-born health professionals on the path to licensure in Maryland.

How do licensure barriers affect the health care system in Maryland?

The Maryland health care system is in crisis because of a shortage of health professionals in all categories, including nurses, physicians, and behavioral health providers. Hospitals and other health care facilities are limited to their ability to recruit foreign-born clinicians who otherwise meet Maryland’s requirements.

Which health care licensure applicants is Maryland turning away?

Maryland is turning away several categories of health professionals who are immigrants, even in the midst of a severe health care workforce shortage across all types of professions. Who is Maryland turning away?

- **Practitioners from Other Countries with Equivalent Licensure Requirements:** With the health care workforce shortage, hospitals sometimes turn to qualified practitioners, most commonly nurses, from other countries. If a country has educational and licensure requirements that align with Maryland, then the hospital can support foreign-trained clinicians in obtaining a work visa from the U.S. State Department. Maryland's law prevents, however, prevents these otherwise qualified clinicians from obtaining licensure in Maryland. If the clinicians are nurses, they can get licensed in Maryland through a complicated process that involves first getting licensed in a state without the barriers in Maryland's system. But this pathway can be cumbersome and lengthy – delaying a nurse being able to work in Maryland sometimes over a year. Some nurses may decide to practice in states without such barriers.
- **Foreign Students and Graduates of Maryland Clinical Programs:** People can attend certain clinical education program on a student visa if they meet the U.S. Department of State's qualifications.
 - Some students may be eligible to work while in school, depending on the type of student visa. For example, a nursing student could have the role of a certified nursing assistant - but only if Maryland's restrictions on licensure and certification were removed.
 - Some graduates from clinical programs may be able to stay in the U.S. for a certain period of time on a student visa, potentially allowing for time to obtain a work visa. However, they may not be able to secure work without a license. Thus, Maryland's system creates a catch-22 for Maryland clinical graduates on student visas. Maryland is missing opportunities to retain these Maryland-trained clinicians.

Which states are getting health professionals turned away by Maryland law?

Maryland hospitals have reported that we are losing health professionals to other states with updated licensure laws. Which states are getting these health professionals? There is no definitive source of information on licensure for all health occupations, but the National Council on the State Boards of Nursing routinely surveys nursing boards in all 50 states^j, and this information may serve as a proxy for requirements for other types of licensure. At least 19 state nursing boards report that social security numbers are not required for nursing licensure: *Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington.*

We believe the number is actually higher, as some states, such as Florida, have a workaround process for licensing nurses who do not have social security numbers.

How does the bill update the law and remove barriers to licensure?

Maryland has 20 health occupation boards under the Maryland Department of Health. We have reviewed the Board's requirements for licensure in Maryland, and we have found no requirements based on citizenship status. However, there are a couple of references in law related to a requirement for social security number for licensure. The social security number requirement acts as a de facto restriction for licensure of non- U.S. citizens.

- **Family Law Article § 10-119.3:** In 1997, the Maryland General Assembly enacted extensive statutory changes requiring compliance with federal law on child support enforcement. As a result, all occupational licensure boards are required to check with the Department of Human Resources on whether the applicant owes child support. While the law says that a board should use a "social security number", the law was enacted before the common use of ITINs, which was codified in federal law in 1996. There has also been federal guidance that states are required to collect a social security number if an individual has such a number, but other options are for the applicant to submit an ITIN or affidavit that they do not have social security number. The bill updates the law to reflect the federal interpretation of the law.

- **Health Occupations Article:** The bill clarifies that having a social security number or ITIN is not a condition of licensure. However, the bill clearly places responsibility that license and certificate holders must report their social security number or ITIN once it has been obtained.

What are some common questions on licensure and immigration status?

We have compiled answers to several common questions

- **Do foreign-born clinicians with work visas have ITINs?** Clinicians with U.S. work visas do not need an ITIN to travel to the U.S. In fact, individuals may not be able to obtain ITIN number until an applicant has been present long enough in the U.S. to be required to pay taxes.ⁱⁱ For this reason, it is important to create a pathway to licensure for individuals without ITINs.
- **If Maryland clarifies licensure requirements, will employers be allowed to hire employees who are not in the U.S. legally?** Federal law still requires employers to verify the legal status of new hires using the I9 form.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Will Maryland licensees be eligible to practice in another state through an interstate licensure compact?** It depends on the compact rules. For example, nurses cannot practice in other states on a compact license, but they can still practice in Maryland on a Maryland nursing license.

Conclusion

We would be happy to follow-up on any additional questions. Please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net

ⁱ https://www.ncsbn.org/public-files/2021_Licensure_Survey.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/individual-taxpayer-identification-number>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9>



SB187 FAV Immigrant Transit Assistance.pdf

Uploaded by: Roxanne Weis

Position: FAV

Transit Immigrant Assistance

1323 Midwood Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Roxanne Weiss on behalf of TIA -301-565-4196

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0187: Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

TO: Chair Melony Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Roxanne Weiss, Co-Chair, Transit Immigrant Assistance

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2023

Transit Immigrant Assistance was founded in 2017 in response to a high volume of immigrants arriving at the Greyhound Bus station in Silver Spring, MD with literally nothing, from the Southern Border.

Transit Immigrant Assistance strongly supports Senate Bill 0187 as a means of expanding occupational licensure to our immigrant community, of recouping investment in educational opportunities our state has funded, and of equitably serving our increasingly diverse population.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, Maryland is the home to nearly a quarter million undocumented immigrants. Why not make it easy for these mostly young, vibrant individuals to obtain licensure so that they may personally provide for their families and start building their lives and so that they can start enjoying the American dream? As long as Maryland continues this backward policy, groups like TIA and Direct Support for Immigrants, a Takoma Park non-profit, will continue to support the needs of our new neighbors - but make no mistake, these new arrivals would like nothing better than working for what they want rather than asking for a handout.

I am sure that our state legislators can appreciate that by allowing undocumented persons to train and ultimately obtain licenses to work, monies will not only accrue to our state coffers but our State will also address severe workforce shortages. Should this legislation pass and become law, organizations such as ours, will be freed up from providing basics like food, clothes, furniture, occasionally rent, etc. as is currently happening, and be able to sustain our immigrant community's longer term needs by helping our new neighbors settle in, by facilitating their children getting signed up for school, by using funds to help with immigration paperwork, medication, and more long term planning issues. We understand passing this legislation is not a panacea, but we truly believe it will go a long way in quickly getting new arrivals to self sufficiency - the American dream!

Transit Immigrant Assistance

1323 Midwood Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Roxanne Weiss on behalf of TIA -301-565-4196

Maryland should prohibit State Health Occupational or Professional Licensing Boards from denying an occupational or professional a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the requirements to perform the specified job duties. Health Licensing Boards should allow applicants to use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number in lieu of a Social Security Number on occupational licensure applications. For these reasons, **we strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0187.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Weiss, Co-Chair
Transit Immigrant Assistance

Kagan Article.pdf

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

READERS RESPOND

Self control: a valuable life skill that must be taught

While accountability and punitive measures are needed to curb violence among young people, self-control is equally important ("Baltimore pastor: Let's take back our children and our city," Jan. 31). If it is not taught in the home, it must be taught in our child care, educational, and corrective institutions as well as to prospective foster and adoptive parents. Turning away from a perceived offense helps to build character.

Police officials have repeatedly stated that youth often harm others to settle minor grudges and grievances, to get revenge, to show superiority in a controversial or competitive matter. Violence is used to "pay back" others for insults, name-calling, and other minor issues. This must stop.

While strong feelings of anger, hurt and betrayal can be normal, they must be handled in nonviolent ways. Self-control is a godly virtue, but learning it must be undertaken in places in addition to the church.

Let's add it to our basic skills. It could save many lives and much heart ache.

— Margaret D. Pagan, Baltimore

To evaluate Jackson, you have to look at his non-starter games, too

The article, "Five things we learned from the Ravens' 2022 season," (Jan. 24), said, "you don't lightly cast aside a quarterback with a record of 45-16 as a starter."

To properly evaluate Jackson's value to the team, one also has to take into consideration the games in which he was not a starter. He missed eight regular season games. That would make his record effectively 45-24. Plus, one should also add the playoff games in which he and the team did not play, either, because he did not finish or because he lost in earlier playoff rounds. These total 17 games. Adding them would make his record a relatively mediocre 45-41.

Many have warned that Jackson, as a running quarterback, risked a short career due to injury. It seems to have escaped notice that, having failed to finish the last two years due to injuries, that has already happened, making him an extremely poor risk for a long-term, guaranteed contract. Both Jackson and the Ravens realize that, which is why he wants one, and why the Ravens have been reluctant to give it to him.

— James Kelly, Ellicott City

Keep ammunition out of the Chesapeake Bay

There's an issue that's not addressed in the article about the Greenbury Point danger zones ("Cardin, Van Hollen and Sarbanes urge more public input on Navy's proposed Greenbury Point 'Danger Zones,'" Jan. 26)

When they want to close the waters around Greenbury Point because of use of the firing range, that implies that the Navy is firing actual ammunition into the Chesapeake Bay.

While we certainly don't want civilian watercraft in the path of ammunition, we also don't want to pollute the Chesapeake Bay with ammo made of heavy metals, all of which are poison when dissolved in water.

Simulation technology has progressed to the point that Naval Academy cadets can be trained in simulators that will give them a more realistic training experience with live fire than actual live fire on an artificially sanitized firing range. And simulated ammo won't pollute the bay.

— Henry Farkas, Pikesville

Annapolis is Maryland's political capital, but Baltimore is the capital of all else

Maryland is a well run beautiful state with one very major flaw. The one major city, Baltimore, has been neglected for too long ("With his first budget plan in.

MARYLAND VOICES

BALTIMORE SUN.
THURSDAY, FEB 2, 2023

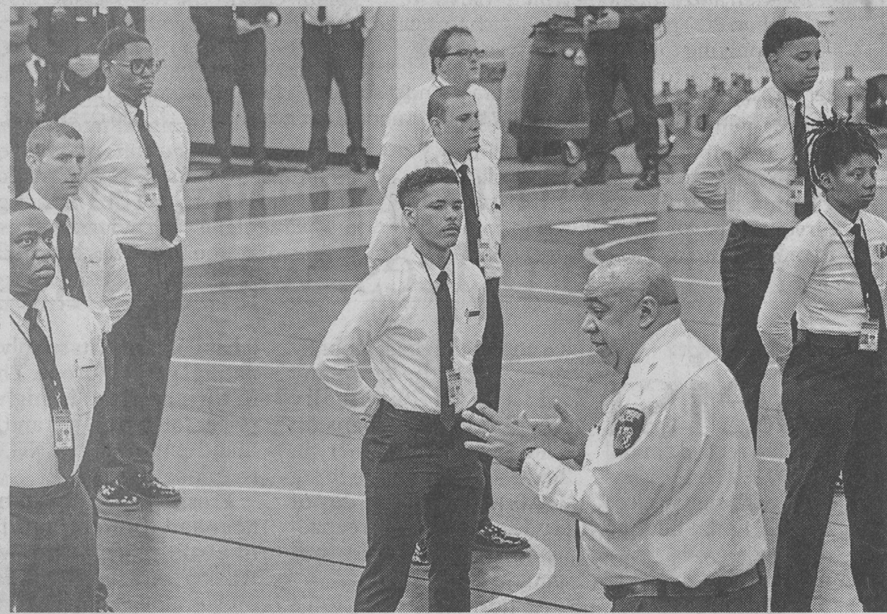
EDITORIAL

Maryland should allow noncitizens to fill key health and public safety job vacancies

The usual anti-immigrant talking heads in the right-wing media may not realize it, but the U.S. military — the one branch of government they reliably see as virtuous — does not require its recruits to be U.S. citizens or even born in this country. Indeed, thousands of immigrants, all living permanently and legally in the United States, enlist each year. Americans should be grateful for their collective service. They defend their adopted homeland and risk their health and well-being so that the rest of us can live safe from the nation's enemies. So why not allow them to provide the same sort of protection for our homes, schools, public areas and places of business from more run-of-the-mill threats?

In recent years, states have been grappling with whether to hire noncitizens as police officers and, in a related issue, whether such individuals should also be given the opportunity to be licensed health care workers. In both cases, there are often chronic labor shortages aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under Maryland state law, noncitizens can be certified only if they have applied to be U.S. citizens and earn that status within five years. That could change this year, however; the General Assembly is now considering legislation allowing any honorably discharged veteran to be certified as a police officer.

The measure is bound to prove controversial — as all matters involving immigration tend to be under the current political climate — but it shouldn't be. Rarely is there a better opportunity to match an unmet need with underutilized talent. Men and women who can be trusted to patrol the streets of Kandahar or Kirkuk can surely be trusted to walk a beat in Kenilworth Park or Keswick. That's not to suggest we would expect police work to be about firepower; it isn't. But new arrivals with their multicultural and bilingual talents would seem to bring their own set of skills to the table. Who better to help provide outreach to immigrant communities than someone who is a fellow immigrant? Meanwhile, the Baltimore Police Department has experienced chronic staffing problems, often losing officers faster than it can recruit replacements



Baltimore City Police Commissioner Michael Harrison welcomes the new class of 22 police officer trainees at the University of Baltimore on orientation day at the Baltimore Police Academy in March 2022. They undergo 30 weeks of training at the academy, followed by 10 weeks of field training. AMY DAVIS/BALTIMORE SUN

despite signing bonuses and other incentives. Other police departments are in the same boat.

It is particularly laughable that current Maryland law requires police officers to be awarded citizenship within five years. Not just because the wheels of the federal bureaucracy turn slowly but because it suggests that something downright tragic happens if a police officer who was regarded as fully qualified during his first 4 years and 11 months of service had to be shunned after four more weeks in the job. As state Sen. Cheryl Kagan, a Montgomery County Democrat and the bill's lead Senate sponsor points out, the legislation simply allows police departments to cast a "wider net" for recruits.

Sen. Kagan has another piece of legislation, Senate Bill 187, set to be heard Feb. 7 before the Senate Finance Committee that would enable a similarly broadened net for those seeking to fill jobs in a variety of health occupations. It doesn't change any of the standards for licensing involving training, education or other experience, but it would prevent licens-

ing boards from requiring citizenship. Given the health care workforce shortage in Maryland and elsewhere, why is anything beyond proof of legal presence required? Consider, for example, that Maryland taxpayers already pay for public education for such individuals. And now, just at the moment when they can contribute to society in such positions as home health care aide or nurse, we would deny them that opportunity? At least 14 other states have chosen to toss citizenship as a requirement for occupational licensure. Maryland should join the club.

One of these days, we hope the anti-immigrant forces in Congress will recognize what certain people see only as a "border crisis" also offers an opportunity to grow the U.S. economy. That's not to endorse "open borders" but to recognize that current U.S. immigration policy is failing to tap the talents of millions of people who could be valued contributors to society if only given a path to a green card, let alone citizenship. What a waste. But what an opportunity, too.

CARTOON GALLERY



SB187_ Occupational Licensure Testimony .docx (1).

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Joint Audit and Evaluation 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

SB187: Occupations and Professions – Licenses – Immigrants

Senate Finance Committee
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:00 PM

The Problem

Maryland is struggling with crisis-level staffing shortages in health care. According to the *Baltimore Banner*, our [wait times for emergency rooms are the worst in the nation](#). This is not a post-pandemic anomaly. A 2018 study by UMD's Health Care Workforce Working Group listed Maryland as [1 of 4 states anticipated to have a shortage of nurses exceeding 10,000 by 2025](#). Although exacerbated by the pandemic, it was not the cause of our critical health care staffing shortage.

Our Outdated Laws

Driving this crisis are our antiquated laws that unreasonably restrict access to health licenses. Current law requires citizenship in order to be granted a health occupations license. Consequently, qualified professionals are choosing to practice elsewhere. **Immigration status is neither a fair nor adequate determinant of one's merit as a professional.**

The Solution

[SB187](#), which passed the Senate last session, would allow qualified professionals to practice-- regardless of immigration status. By removing citizenship as a prerequisite to licensure and accepting an Individual Taxpayer Identifier Number (ITIN) as an alternative to a Social Security number, Maryland could address its critical staffing shortage. Candidates would still be required to meet all credentials and qualifications.

Precedent in Other States

By passing this bill, Maryland would join **five states** (California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, & New Jersey) that have 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 for certain professions.

Losing Out to Other States

Maryland is losing bright and talented health care professionals to opportunities in other states. Students at our prestigious universities are left with no choice but to move elsewhere to start

their careers. Additionally, out-of-state (or international) professionals who are deciding where to move and pay taxes can't even consider Maryland.

According to The Baltimore Sun...

[Thursday's editorial in *The Baltimore Sun*](#) (February 2, 2023) made the case well:

"Maryland taxpayers already pay for public education for such individuals. And now, just at the moment when they can contribute to society in such positions as home health care aide or nurse, we would deny them that opportunity? At least 14 other states have chosen to toss citizenship as a requirement for occupational licensure. Maryland should join the club."

I urge a favorable report on SB187 to address the critical need for licensed health care workers in Maryland.

SB0187 2023 -- Takoma Park Mobilization -- FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Seth Grimes

Position: FAV



SB0187: Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants

Takoma Park Mobilization – FAVORABLE

February 6, 2023

Chair Griffith and Members of the Finance Committee:

Takoma Park Mobilization supports SB0187, which will allow Maryland residents to obtain healthcare occupational licenses, without consideration of immigration status, if they meet all training and other state licensure requirements.

Takoma Park Mobilization (tpmobilization.org) is a Montgomery County advocacy organization in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. We're active in climate action and other environmental concerns, immigration, police and justice reform, and economic equity concerns.

Expanding access to occupational licenses 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 licenses 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 SB0187, which will advance equity and economic opportunity and boost state finances.

Please give SB0187 a favorable committee report and floor vote.

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

SB0187_FAV_MedChi_Health Occs. - Licenses, Certifi

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 Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 187 – *Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 187.

Senate Bill 187 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 187.

SB187 testimony immigrant tax id number.pdf

Uploaded by: Tracey Paliath

Position: FAV



Maryland Association of Community Services

Board of Directors

Karen Adams-Gilchrist, President
Providence Center

Scott Evans, President Elect
Benedictine Programs and Services

Shawn Kros, Past President
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region

Scott Hollingsworth, Treasurer
Appalachian Crossroads

Rob Baynard
Opportunities, Inc.

Rick Callahan
Compass

Daria Cervantes
The Arc Montgomery County

Mike Dyer
United Needs and Abilities

Randy Ferguson
The Center for Life Enrichment

Cindy Freeman
Spectrum Support

Terra Gaillard
United Community Supports
of Maryland

David Greenberg
The League

Monica McCall
Creative Options

Greg Miller
Penn-Mar Human Services

Clarissa Mitchell
EPIC

Michael Planz
Community Living

Jonathon Rondeau
The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

Laura Howell,
Executive Director

February 7, 2023

Finance Committee Senate Bill 187 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a non-profit association of over 120 agencies across Maryland serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). MACS members provide residential, day and supported employment services to thousands of Marylanders, so that they can live, work and fully participate in their communities.

People with disabilities rely on Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide the supports they need to be part of their communities. Currently, IDD providers are in a workforce crisis. They cannot attract enough DSPs to work for them on the frontlines and provide supports to people with disabilities. Generally speaking, the DSP profession is an entry point job opportunity for many people, as there is no college degree required. The profession has many new immigrants to the country who are anxious to work, and will receive on the job training, but they need to be certified by the Board of Nursing to be a Certified Medication Technician (CMT), so they can give medications out to people who are not able to take medications by themselves.

The Board of Nursing requires that anyone applying to be a CMT have a Social Security Number. Senate Bill 187, which allows DSPs to present Social Security Numbers or Individual Taxpayer Numbers to the Board of Nursing would open up the pool of candidates for DSP jobs. There are many people in our state who are eligible to work and could work as DSPs but who don't yet have a Social Security Number, so they cannot become a CMT, which means they generally won't be hired as a DSP.

Unfortunately, this means that at a time of workforce crisis, there is a section of the population that is being excluded from the DSP pool of applicants because they don't have a Social Security Number. Senate Bill 187 would add to the pool of people who could become DSPs by allowing them to use their Taxpayer Identification Number to become a CMT, and then be able to be hired to work as a DSP. The DSP workforce crisis is dire, and anything that can be done to widen the pool of qualified applicants for these jobs, like Senate Bill 187, should be done. MACS urges a favorable report on SB 187.

For further information please contact Tracey Paliath, Director of Government Relation, at tpaliath@macsonline.org.

4 - SB 187 - FIN - Various Boards - LOSWA.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FWA

**Maryland Health Occupations Boards**

4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Maryland Board of Dental Examiners

Spring Grove Hospital Center
55 Wade Avenue, Benjamin Rush Bldg.
Baltimore, MD 21228

Maryland Board of Nursing

4140 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Maryland Board of Physicians

4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Maryland Board of Pharmacy

4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

**2023 SESSION
POSITION PAPER****BILL NO: SB 187****COMMITTEE: Finance****POSITION: SWA**

TITLE: Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants**BILL ANALYSIS:**

Senate Bill (SB) 187 prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license to an immigrant if they meet certain requirements and requires each health occupations board to require each applicant for a license to disclose the Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number of the applicant and record the number on the application.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The State Acupuncture Board; State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists; State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals; State Board of Dental Examiners; State Board of Environmental Health Specialists; State Board of Nursing; State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice; State Board of Examiners in Optometry; State Board of Pharmacy; State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners; State Board of Physicians; State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists; State Board of Psychologists; and State Board of Social Work Examiners support with amendment SB 187.

This bill, as introduced, prohibits boards from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant who meets certain educational, training, or professional requirement for licensure. The Boards support the apparent intent of this legislation that would prohibit any additional restrictions on licensure based on immigration status, however, as written, this bill would

seemingly create additional restrictions on the Boards' ability to deny a license that would limit Board discretion and would create unequal treatment between immigrants and U.S. citizens. Specifically, the Boards have discretion to deny licenses in certain circumstances, such as a violation of the practice act, and as currently worded, the Boards fear that this bill would remove such discretion for immigrant applicants. The Boards would support this bill with amendments that make it clear that boards cannot deny a license based solely on the applicant's status as an immigrant, but do not limit the Boards' ability to deny licenses when appropriate. For example, if an applicant has violated the standard of practice or committed unprofessional conduct in the practice of acupuncture elsewhere, current law allows the Board to assess the violation and deny the license if the applicant poses a threat to public safety. The Boards are concerned that the proposed language could be interpreted to be read that so long as the minimum qualifications for licensure are present, that the Boards would no longer be able to deny such a license. Therefore, the Boards recommend the following amendment:

Amendment 1

On page 4, strike lines 24-26 beginning with "IF THE INDIVIDUAL" and ending with "OR REGISTRATION." Insert, on line 24 after "IMMIGRANT", "...SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR STATUS AS AN IMMIGRANT."

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The State Acupuncture Board; State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists; State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals; State Board of Dental Examiners; State Board of Environmental Health Specialists; State Board of Nursing; State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice; State Board of Examiners in Optometry; State Board of Pharmacy; State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners; State Board of Physicians; State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists; State Board of Psychologists; and State Board of Social Work Examiners respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 187 with proposed amendment.

If you have a question for a specific board, please contact Lillian Reese, the legislative liaison for the Boards, at 443-794-4757 or at lillian.reese@maryland.gov who will provide you with their contact information.

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

2023 SB187 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF



Opposition Statement SB187

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant
Maryland Right to Life

We oppose SB187

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to SB187. Maryland Right to Life opposes non-citizens receiving licenses, certificates and registrations for the purpose of providing abortions and abortion services. The Abortion Care Access Act has already lowered the standard of care for women and girls by allowing non-physicians to provide abortion services. Women and girls deserve the expectation of the highest standard of care possible and this bill fails to protect the health and well-being of women and girls. Medical and surgical abortions carry risks of physical injury up to and including death. Poor record-keeping and lack of uniformity among foreign nations makes it impossible to verify or to quantify the level of professional standard of care. Women and girls in the state of Maryland deserve the highest standard of professional medical care available and this bill does the opposite.

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion.

Maryland taxpayers are forced to subsidize the abortion industry through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program. Programs involved in reproductive health policy include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children's Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

Taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortion training. The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.



Opposition Statement SB187 , page 2 of 2

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant

Maryland Right to Life

Funding restrictions are constitutional. The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. The Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that "*no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life*", and held that there is "*no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.*"

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to oppose **SB187**.

SB0187-2023-Health Occupations - Immigrants.pdf

Uploaded by: Ella Ennis

Position: UNF



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401
Email: eee437@comcast.net

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chairman
And Members of the Finance Committee
Senate of Maryland

Re: **SB 0187** – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates and Registrations – Immigrants – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Griffith and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes SB 0187. The bill requires any Maryland Health Occupations Board to issue a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant illegally present in the United States. The bill violates Federal law prohibiting illegally present individuals being employed in the United States. Any individual can apply for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. One does not have to be in the United States legally to receive a Taxpayer Identification Number.

Last year's bill (SB 0523) originally called for all occupational or professional licensing boards and units of State government to issue a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant, legal or illegal, with a Taxpayer Identification Number. The bill was amended to limit it to only health occupations, but clearly the intent is to extend it to all occupations. The impact would be devastating to moderate and low-income citizens and legal immigrants.

Illegally present individuals employed in health occupations will deny that employment opportunity to a citizen or legal immigrant resident. Passage of Senate Bill 0187 will encourage more people to try to enter the United States illegally. Illegal immigration disproportionately hurts minority and low-income citizens by driving down wages, reducing employment opportunities, and limiting access to affordable housing and other services.

For all of the above reasons, please vote an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **SB 0187**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women