



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,

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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-.