

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

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