



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

March 29, 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 requiring that an applicant provide proof that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States or have a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number as a condition for licensure, certification, or registration; 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 or, as permitted by federal law, provide alternative documentation.

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 short-handed. 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