



## HB0454: Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants

*Takoma Park Mobilization* – **FAVORABLE**

February 20, 2023

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

Takoma Park Mobilization supports HB0454, 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](http://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 HB0454, which will advance equity and economic opportunity and boost state finances.

Please give HB0454 a favorable committee report and floor vote.

*Submitted by Seth Grimes, [seth.grimes@gmail.com](mailto:seth.grimes@gmail.com)*