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TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health & Government Operations Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB454 (Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations -
Immigrants): Letter of Support

The Office of the Attorney General supports HB454, 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/skilledimmigrantannrepfy21.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/wpcontent/uploads/sites/7/2022/09/Licensing-for-Immigrants-and-Refugees-1.pdf>

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on House Bill 454.

cc: Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us