



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chairman
And Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Re: **HB 0454** – Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates and Registrations – Immigrants – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women oppose HB 0454. The bill requires any Maryland Health Occupations Board to issue a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant illegally present in the United States. The bill violates Federal law prohibiting illegally present individuals being employed in the United States. Any individual can apply for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. One does not have to be in the United States legally to receive a Taxpayer Identification Number.

Last year's bill SB 0523 originally called for all occupational or professional licensing boards and units of State government to issue a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant, legal or illegal, with a Tax Identification Number. The bill was amended to limit it to only health occupations, but clearly the intent is to extend it to all occupations. The impact would be devastating to moderate and low-income citizens and legal immigrants.

Illegally present individuals employed in health occupations will deny that employment opportunity to a citizen or legal immigrant resident. Passage of House Bill 0454 will encourage more people to try to enter the United States illegally. Illegal immigration disproportionately hurts minority and low-income citizens by driving down wages, reducing employment opportunities, and limiting access to affordable housing and other services.

For all of the above reasons, please vote an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **HB 0454**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women