

Dear Chair and members of the Health Committee,

I, Manu Mathew, an unmatched medical graduate, am here to express my support for HB507 Register Graduate physician bill. This bill is a critical step in helping the many medical graduates who face the dreadful experience of not matching into a residency program.

This bill will provide much-needed support for medical graduates who do not match with a residency program, ensuring that they can still earn a living while they wait for an opportunity to match in the future. The pandemic has highlighted a national shortage of medical doctors, and it has become clear that there are many talented and qualified medical graduates who are currently unable to work in underserved communities. Simply having a medical diploma and passing the USMLE is not enough to meet the needs of our communities during times of crisis.

I would like to suggest some amendments to the bill, including the use of a portion of the registered graduate physician work as future residency credit. As the program develops, benchmarks can be set by collaborating physicians, and virtual rounds and teaching sessions can be arranged with local collaborating in network physicians, which should be certified through the board of medicine.

To those who oppose the bill and believe that we are changing the scope of what a medical doctor is, I would like to emphasize that our goal is simply to help our communities, not to change the scope or residency requirements. Many of us have been waiting from Washington D.C to increase residency funding since 1997. Whereas nurse practitioners are independently practicing in 24 states without any residency requirements or going through the Match. Unmatched medical graduates are often told to simply improve their CV and hope for the best. At the same time, doctors have been signing collaborating practice agreements with mid-level providers for years, helping to propel their careers to where they are today with full independent practice. It would be a huge loss to the medical profession if we were to let go of all these unmatched doctors, forcing them into random professions with no clear path forward. This bill will act as a form of recruitment for physicians for the State of Maryland and have them serve the society instead of being forgotten.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

Manu Mathew, M.D