



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill number: House Bill 454 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants

Hearing Date: February 22, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports House Bill 454 – *Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*. The bill removes unnecessary barriers to individuals becoming licensed or certified under a health occupation boards.

Under the current law, health occupation boards appear to be required to obtain a social security number for applicants for licensure or certification. This statutory requirement is a de facto requirement for citizenship, even though there are many health care practitioners who are legal immigrants in this country. Given the shortage of health professionals in virtually every field, we should be removing unnecessary barriers to licensure.

In addition, we need our health care workforce to be more reflective of the communities they serve. By creating a pathway for more foreign-born health professionals to become licensed or certified in Maryland, Maryland will be in a better position to serve our state’s diverse communities.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.