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To: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
From: The Office of the Attorney General
Re: House Bill 0454 (Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants): **Letter of Support**

The Office of the Attorney General supports HB0454, 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/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2022/09/Licensing-for-Immigrants-and-Refugees-1.pdf>

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB0454.

cc: Delegate Lesley Lopez