



Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 1054- Physicians - Licensing - Foreign Practicing Physicians

Position: *Support*

March 5, 2024

House Health & Government Operations Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 1054.

Maryland hospitals continue to face a staffing shortage, including physician shortages in anesthesia, cardiology, gastroenterology, primary care, psychiatry, and radiology. MHA's 2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future.

HB 1054 would support the roadmap's goals by creating opportunities for international medical graduates, who are already trained and licensed to practice in their home countries.

International medical graduates currently must complete a three-year (or longer) residency program that is recognized in the U.S. before they can be eligible to receive a license. This can be extremely discouraging for qualified physicians who have completed their residency. To reduce these redundancies in the system, the bill forms a consortium of residency programs that will develop a new pathway for these physicians.

We understand the complexities associated with developing a consortium and would be interested in working with other stakeholders to discuss how to bring this concept to fruition. Maryland hospitals rely on internationally educated physicians who come to the U.S. on a J1 visa waiver. Finding a pathway to expand the number of trained physicians we can bring to Maryland is critical. We look forward to working with the sponsor and other stakeholders on this issue.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 1054.

For more information, please contact:
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