



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1054
PHYSICIANS – LICENSING – FOREIGN PRACTICING PHYSICIANS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Hill

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1054 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Physicians are in very short supply all across the country and Maryland, like every other state, is struggling with long wait times to see physicians and a lack of physicians to staff hospitals and urgent care centers. And yet there are many physicians available who have medical degrees from other countries and have practiced medicine for years outside of the United States. Currently, we require that those physicians go back and earn a degree in the States before they can get a license.

This bill, if enacted, would require the establishment of a Consortium of Postgraduate Medical Education Programs to create and administer an examination to assess the ability of a foreign practicing physician to meet the standard of care for the independent practice of medicine in the state. Applicants would have three years to pass the exam once they initially sit for it. If they fail, the Consortium would develop policies for additional education requirements or license restrictions for a foreign practicing physician if a passing score is not achieved. Once they pass the examination, they would be licensed to practice in Maryland.

This is a very forward-looking piece of legislation designed to fill a gap in Maryland's ability to provide medical services with quality, experienced physicians.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.