



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 72 - Health Occupations Boards - English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter in support of Senate Bill (SB) 72. This bill will prohibit a health occupations board in Maryland from requesting English proficiency evidence as a condition of licensure, certification, or registration from applicants duly licensed, certified, or registered in another state that requires evidence of proficiency as a condition of licensure, certification, or registration. SB 72 also requires health occupations boards to list on their websites other states with an English proficiency requirement that meets their requirements.

The Department views a request for additional English proficiency evidence from an applicant who has already established proficiency in a reciprocal state as unduly burdensome with the potential to chill out-of-state applicants' pursuit of licensure. Additionally, qualified applicants may view the requirement as punitive in nature creating further barriers to pursuing licensure. Instead, allowing out-of-state practitioners to obtain licensure in Maryland has the potential to expand access to linguistically consistent care for patients with limited English proficiency.¹

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH
Secretary

¹ Ann M Nyugen and Magda Schaler-Haynes, *Can Interstate Licensure Compacts Enhance the Health Care Workforce?*, The Milbank Quarterly, April 11, 2023
<https://www.milbank.org/2023/04/can-interstate-licensure-compacts-enhance-the-health-care-workforce/#:~:text=Standardized%20data%20indicating%20specialty%20by,to%20meet%20demand%20over%20time.>