

Honorable Members of the Maryland Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Dr. Yang Zhao. I am writing in favor of HB1199 “Physicians Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians.” As a gynecologic oncologist with over 15 years of experience, I trained at China’s top medical school, Peking University Health Science Center, and completed over a decade of rigorous residency and specialty training. As an attending physician at one of China’s leading hospitals, I treated thousands of patients and performed hundreds of complex surgeries every year.

When I moved to the U.S., I hoped to continue my work, but the current licensure system makes it nearly impossible. Despite my years of training and expertise, I would need to pass multiple exams, complete months of U.S. clinical experience, and enter a highly competitive residency process. Even in the best case, it would take over 10 years before I could practice again—all while Maryland faces a severe physician shortage, especially in women’s health.

I have safely treated thousands of patients with no malpractice claims or complaints. A structured pathway—such as supervised transitional practice and competency assessments—can ensure that experienced international doctors like me meet U.S. standards while allowing us to serve communities in need.

Every day, I meet women who wait months for a gynecologist. They need care now. HB 1199 would create a fair and practical path for highly qualified international physicians to step in and help, without compromising patient safety. This is not just about me. It is about Maryland’s families—about ensuring that every woman who needs care can get it. I urge you to support HB 1199. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yang Zhao
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