



Opposition Statement HB1199

Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians

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Maryland Right to Life

We oppose HB1199.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and followers across the state, we respectfully but strongly object to HB1199.

Stop Interference with Health Occupations Boards

Maryland Right to Life opposes the interference of the State to impose forced issuance of licenses on any Health Occupations Board thus preventing independent governance of its members and their practice of medicine. We oppose efforts that lower standards for evaluating the qualifications for an individual to provide health care. The bill does not require a written examination that would provide proof of knowledge. The bill does not require a supervisory period during which the individual could be evaluated for knowledge and skill. The lives of the Maryland population are at risk when put into the hands of unqualified health practitioners. Healthcare is not a place to play Russian roulette.

The bill extends this licensing to alleged physicians from all countries. The education, training and licensing varies greatly from country to country. Record keeping varies from one country to another. Some countries have very poor or non-existent record-keeping. This lack of uniformity among foreign nations makes it impossible to verify or to quantify the level of professional standard of care for these physicians.

While the bill requires a demonstration of written and oral competency in the English language, it does not provide what the test or demonstration entails. Language barriers are a threat to effective and quality health care.

Medical Malpractice

Will these individuals be able to carry malpractice insurance? Will the state force insurance companies to provide medical malpractice insurance for these alleged physicians? How will Marylanders be able to seek recovery after injury or death from services provided by these individuals? This bill does not inspire confidence that the State of Maryland is concerned with the health and well-being of Marylanders.



Stop the erosion of Women's Health Care

This bill lowers the standards for Women's Health. Cultural differences vary greatly from one country to another. These cultural differences usually negatively impact women more than men. Some countries have less respect and concern for women than men, and this is reflected in how women are treated in many areas including health care and whether women can practice medicine or even access medical care.

Maryland Right to Life opposes this bill being used to staff the abortion workforce. The Maryland General Assembly has removed abortion from the spectrum of health care. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed the physician requirement for abortion services and allows "qualified providers" to offer surgical and chemical abortions. Pregnant women and girls are not guaranteed care by a physician. Telehealth removes the in-person physical examination which lowers the safety of prescribing many drugs but especially the dangerous abortion pills.

The abortion industry puts profits over patients. The medical scarcity in abortion practice is a matter of medical ethics not provider scarcity, as 9 out of 10 OB/Gyn's refuse to commit abortions because they recognize the scientific fact that a human fetus is a living human being. The abortion industry's solution is two-fold: (1) authorize lower-skilled workers and non-physicians to perform abortion, and (2) authorize abortionists to remotely prescribe abortion pills across state lines. The abortion industry could easily exploit these "new doctors" in the United States by hiring them at lower rates. The "new doctors" benefit by establishing a work record in the United States.

In the context of other laws that have lowered the standards of medical care and other bills going through the Maryland General Assembly, this bill compounds those lowering of standards. As demonstrated by the Abortion Care Access Act, the abortion industry is concerned with simply finding more "qualified providers" to provide abortions, and if those "qualified providers" are permitted to call themselves doctors, it works in their favor.

Maryland is one of only 3 states that does not require reporting of abortion data

This lack of data collection denies the women and girls of Maryland to make true informed consent. Without access to factual information about women's treatments and procedures, women are not afforded the ability to choose doctors, facilities, and treatment pathways based on best possible outcomes.

Protect the lives of Marylanders by demanding high standards for those who practice medicine. WHe respectfully ask you to give an unfavorable report on **HB1199**.



HB1199
2025