



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association

To the House Health and Government Operations Committee

Chairperson Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

March 5, 2025

House Bill 1199 Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1199 concerning the licensure of internationally trained physicians.

MRHA supports this legislation that allows the Maryland Board of Physicians to issue licenses to practice medicine to physicians licensed in countries other than the United States, its territories, or Canada, who the designated requirements.

Strengthening the rural health care workforce is one of MRHA's primary legislative priorities for this session. Health care staffing shortages are a particularly pronounced problem in Maryland's rural communities – leading to decreased access to high quality care for rural residents. Legislation such as this which facilitates the assimilation of qualified internationally trained physicians into the Maryland healthcare workforce could assist in alleviating the negative impacts of current staffing shortages on rural communities.

MHRA believes this legislation is important to support our rural communities and we urge your support with this amendment.

On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,

Jason Rush, MRHA Legislative and Policy Intern, 314-374-8951