

March 5, 2025

Honorable Members of the Maryland Health and Government Operations Committee,  
My name is Dr. Segid Teklehaimanot. I am writing in favor of HB1199 "Physicians Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians." I have worked for 10 years as a general practitioner and 5 years as the head of internal medicine. During this time, I gained extensive experience treating a wide range of patients, including those in intensive care and emergency situations. I later specialized in psychiatry and worked for one year before coming to the United States. My experience includes treating a variety of psychiatric illnesses, including substance abuse issues such as alcohol and drug addiction.

I have also completed Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination, which took me five years to complete while balancing family responsibilities. I am now a U.S. citizen.

Like many international medical graduates (IMGs), I am struggling to obtain a license to fully utilize my skills and experience to heal and serve others. Currently, I and almost all international medical graduates are working in lower-level jobs that do not align with our qualifications, where anyone with basic training could perform the same tasks. There is a clear gap in the healthcare system, and highly skilled professionals are in high demand. I believe this is a waste of great resources which can benefit the nation.

Several states, including Virginia, Tennessee, and Washington, have already taken steps to streamline the path for IMGs to practice, which benefits both the professionals and the healthcare system. I believe that with a little additional support in adapting to the U.S. system, we could contribute significantly, especially in our specialties.

I kindly ask for your support of HB1199 which will shorten the path to licensure, allowing us to be more productive and effective in addressing the pressing healthcare needs of this country.

Sincerely,

Dr. Segid Teklehaimanot  
6118 41st Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Very best,