



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 10, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill 380 – Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians- Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 0380 - Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians. Senate Bill 380 (SB 380) authorizes the Board of Physicians to issue a time-limited license, not to exceed three years and not renewable, to an internationally trained physician under certain circumstances as determined by the Board of Physicians to set minimum qualification and fees for the issuance of licenses, can revoke issued licenses for a number of reasons, and provide a pathway to full licensure after the licensee successfully satisfies any license conditions established by the Board of Physicians. SB 380 also requires the Board of Physicians to adopt regulations to implement the provisions in the bill.

The Department supports the intent of SB 380 as an important avenue to enhance access to health care services and address the physician shortage in Maryland. Licensure of internationally trained physicians who meet the Board of Physicians' requirements would help alleviate workforce shortages, particularly in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). HPSAs are areas that have been federally designated as having a lack of providers. Maryland has a total of 57 primary care HPSAs, and 49 mental health HPSAs. Increasing the number of qualified physicians practicing in Maryland would improve access to care and reduce health disparities, especially in underserved and vulnerable communities.

Licensure of internationally trained physicians who meet the Board of Physician's requirements would lower barriers to the recruitment and licensure of these physicians and contribute to closing the gap, strengthen the health care workforce, and improve access to care across Maryland. The Department looks forward to collaborating on amendments with stakeholders to ensure Maryland is competitive in attracting these internationally trained physicians.

If you have any further questions, please contact Meghan Lynch, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Meena Seshamani', written in a cursive style.

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D
Secretary of Health