

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Finance Committee

SB489
Letter of Information

FROM: Brandon Floyd
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs

DATE: February 13, 2026

RE: SB489: Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools

Johns Hopkins would like to provide information relating to **SB489: Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools**. This bill establishes new provisions regarding the licensing of physicians trained in international medical schools in Maryland and allows certain applicants to be exempt from specific educational requirements if they provide evidence of completing two years of postgraduate medical education training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International (ACGMEI) or another recognized accrediting organization.

Johns Hopkins is supportive of efforts to expand the healthcare workforce which in turn expands access to health care. Regrettably, Johns Hopkins continues to experience workforce challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly strained and overwhelmed our providers. This legislation is a step to mitigate these shortages by improving the licensing process for internationally trained physicians to work in Maryland. However, other states have adopted more robust legislation that supports and advances the pipeline of internationally trained physicians practicing in the U.S. Moreover, we believe Maryland should be a leader in employing credentialed internationally trained physicians.

There is an urgent need to strengthen Maryland's physician workforce. Johns Hopkins, among other institutions, faces significant shortages of specialty physicians including anesthesiologists. These pressures directly affect retention, and long-term workforce stability, ultimately limiting patient access to critical surgical and procedural care. To ensure continued access to high-quality, timely care for our patients, Maryland should continue to prioritize policies that expand physician pipelines. Such policies should incorporate the creation of new licensure pathways that benefit internationally trained physicians and, in turn, assess existing requirements for licensure.

Tackling the issue of physician shortages demands a comprehensive strategy, which includes streamlining the integration of internationally trained physicians into our healthcare system. By pursuing these initiatives, we can improve healthcare access for the residents of Maryland.