



MedStar Health

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SB 489 – Health Occupations – Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools

Position: **Support**

Senate Finance Committee

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MedStar Health is the largest healthcare provider in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. region. MedStar Health offers a comprehensive spectrum of clinical services through over 500 care locations, including 10 hospitals, 33 urgent care clinics, ambulatory care centers and an extensive array of primary and specialty care providers. As a not-for-profit healthcare system, MedStar Health is committed to its patient-first philosophy, emphasizing care, compassion, and clinical excellence, supported by a dedicated team of more than 35,000 physicians, nurses, and many other clinical and non-clinical associates.

For MedStar Health and the communities we serve, workforce shortages are of significant concern, directly affecting the delivery of high-quality patient care. Physician supply is projected to fall behind patient demand both nationally and across Maryland, resulting in longer wait times and reduced access to health care providers. These shortages are driven by an aging population and workforce, licensure barriers, and increasing rates of physician burnout, and they are projected to grow substantially without targeted interventions.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, the United States is projected to face a shortage of up to 141,160 full-time physicians by 2038. To address these challenges, MedStar Health supports alternative pathways and creative strategies to sustain health care delivery and ensure patients continue to receive timely, high-quality care.

Under current Maryland law, internationally trained physicians must meet a narrow set of conditions to qualify for licensure. These requirements can create procedural and timing barriers that delay otherwise qualified physicians from entering practice in Maryland. SB 489 seeks to reduce these barriers by recognizing postgraduate medical education programs accredited by the Accreditation Counsel for Graduate Medical Education-International (ACGME-I). The bill also permits certain licensed physicians trained in international medical schools, to practice medicine under supervision during their initial license term. By improving licensure pathways for internationally trained physicians, this legislation advances long-term continuity of health care services.

MedStar Health remains committed to employing solutions to address workforce shortages and ensure continued access to high-quality care within the communities we serve. By reducing licensure barriers for internationally trained physicians, SB 489 will strengthen the state's capacity to recruit and retain physicians and help mitigate the progression of workforce shortages.

For the reasons above, MedStar Health urges a ***favorable*** report on **SB 489**.

It's how we treat people.