



## **Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)**

To the Senate Finance Committee  
Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle  
February 13, 2026

### **Senate Bill 0489: Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools**

#### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0489: Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools.

The MRHA supports SB 0489, which mandates that internationally trained physicians applying for physician licenses in Maryland are exempt from certain educational requirements if they submit evidence of accredited postgraduate medical training, and that certain licensed physicians trained in international medical schools may practice medicine under supervision during their initial license term.

International medical graduates (IMGs) play a crucial role in bolstering the health provider workforce in rural communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 45.6% of internationally trained physicians supported rural patients.<sup>1</sup> The United States has 39% more residency spots available for residency matching than there are US medical school graduates, creating opportunities for IMGs to fill this gap.<sup>1</sup> This bill would lower barriers for IMGs to practice medicine in Maryland, which will benefit Maryland's rural communities by increasing the amount of physicians who are able to practice in the state.

MRHA believes this legislation is important to support our rural communities and we urge you to support its passage.

With appreciation,  
The Maryland Rural Health Association

1. Sabet CJ, Khalif M, Hoan N, Kureshi S. Supporting International Medical Graduate Workforce Integration in the 2024 US Election. *Fam Med*. 2024;56(10):617-619. <https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2024.706876>.