

HB0598_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/18/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0598 POSITION: FAVORABLE

Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0598, **Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians**

AMN Healthcare has declared *International Medical Graduates Offer Unique Benefits to U.S. Healthcare*¹

Everywhere in the U.S. healthcare system, you'll find International Medical Graduates (IMGs) quietly making a significant impact. These medical professionals bring not only their skills and expertise but also a trove of global perspectives and cultural insights. Our newest white paper, [*International Medical Graduates: Qualifications to Practice in the U.S. and Hiring Considerations*](#), highlights the numerous ways in which IMGs positively impact patient care.

In today's globalized world, diversity and inclusion aren't just goals—they're critical to effective healthcare delivery. The presence of IMGs enriches the medical landscape with varied perspectives and practices, fostering an environment of innovation and empathy. This diversity is particularly vital in addressing the growing physician shortage projected to reach a deficit of up to 86,000 by 2036.

IMGs are not merely filling gaps; they're enhancing the quality and reach of medical care. Their unique backgrounds and experiences offer fresh viewpoints that contribute to more holistic and patient-centered healthcare approaches. By prioritizing diversity through IMG inclusion, healthcare organizations can ensure they remain adaptable and resilient in an evolving industry landscape.

Recognizing that Maryland can and should implement these benefits into medical care in the state this bill will authorize the State Board of Physicians, beginning October 1, 2028, to issue a license, not to exceed 3 years, to practice medicine to an internationally trained physician under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to adopt regulations establishing minimum qualifications and application fees and to provide a pathway to full licensure; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0598.

¹ <https://www.amnhealthcare.com/amn-insights/physician/blog/international-medical-graduates-offer-unique-benefits-to-u.s.-healthcare>