

**TO:** The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair  
*Health Committee*

**HB598**  
**Favorable**

**FROM:** Brandon Floyd  
*Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs*

**DATE:** February 16, 2026

**RE:** HB598: Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians

Johns Hopkins supports **HB598: Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians**. This bill permits the State Board of Physicians to issue a temporary, nonrenewable license to internationally trained physicians and develop a pathway to full licensure. The bill mandates educational, training, English competency, state domicile, and good standing requirements for incoming physicians.

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 as 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. Other states have adopted comprehensive legislation that supports the pipeline of internationally trained physicians practicing in the U.S., and we believe that Maryland should be a leader in employing credentialed internationally trained physicians.

We want to underscore the urgent need to strengthen Maryland’s physician workforce considering the growing anesthesia workforce crisis. As mentioned, Johns Hopkins too faces significant shortages of anesthesiologists among other specialty physicians. 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 and support the wellbeing of our clinical workforce.

Addressing physician workforce shortages requires a multifaceted approach which includes streamlining pathways for internationally trained physicians to join our workforce. By implementing these strategies, we can enhance healthcare access for Marylanders. Moreover, investing in our physician workforce is a critical step toward improving the overall health and wellbeing of our communities.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **HB598**.