

Senate Bill 489 - Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools

POSITION: Support with Amendments

February 17, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

The University of Maryland Medical System (“UMMS”) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 489 – Health Occupations – Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools. Senate Bill 489 (“SB 489”) proposes to streamline the process for internationally trained physicians to practice medicine in the State of Maryland.

UMMS is supportive of the bill sponsor’s efforts to expand the healthcare workforce. Our health system continues to face a workforce shortage, which includes a physician shortage in specialties such as anesthesia, cardiology, gastroenterology, primary care, and radiology. UMMS believes that this legislation can help mitigate some of the workforce shortage by reducing barriers to entry for international physicians.

The issue of licensing internationally trained physicians is important to UMMS and our partners at the UM School of Medicine. Along with other stakeholders, we worked during the interim to craft amendments that can improve the process for licensing international physicians. Conversations around these amendments are ongoing and we believe the parties are close to consensus amendments. As part of these conversations, UMMS and the UM School of Medicine have proposed that the Board of physicians be able to waive the requirements of USMLE 1 and 2 for limited license applicants who have an offer of employment from a school of medicine in the State or the National Institutes of Health. Alternatively, UMMS and the UM School of Medicine ask that uncodified language be included in the legislation to direct the Board of Physicians to consult with the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine during the interim on an institutional license pathway for internationally trained physicians with offers of employment at schools of medicine or the National Institutes of Health. Either of these changes would streamline the international licensing process in the State and bring Maryland more in line with neighboring jurisdictions, including Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia.

We are hopeful that all parties will be able to work together to modernize Maryland’s international physicians licensing process, and in the process make Maryland more competitive with surrounding states that have already streamlined their licensing processes for international physicians.

For these reasons, the University of Maryland Medical System supports SB 489 with amendments, and respectfully requests a *favorable* report on the bill.

For more information, please contact:

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