

Testimony - FAVORABLE

Health Committee

April 1, 2026

**SB489 Health Occupations – Physicians Trained in Foreign Countries – Exemption
From Educational Requirements and Limited License**

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), I am writing to express our support for SB489 Health Occupations – Physicians Trained in Foreign Countries – Exemption From Educational Requirements and Limited License.

UMB and its clinical faculty practices are experiencing physician shortages in Baltimore as well as in underserved regions across the State, including the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. These shortages can contribute to delays and access challenges for patients, particularly those in need of specialty care.

SB489 provides a potential pathway to help address some of these gaps by allowing internationally trained physicians to practice under a limited, temporary license. Accordingly, UMB believes this approach merits consideration as part of a broader strategy to improve access to care across the State of Maryland.

UMB appreciates the sponsor's willingness to engage with the University and other stakeholders on this legislation as we continue to explore ways to strengthen Maryland's physician workforce.

UMB looks forward to continuing to work with the sponsor, the Maryland Board of Physicians, and other stakeholders to explore the development of a full and unrestricted institutional licensure pathway that ensures appropriate standards while supporting workforce needs.

I respectfully urge a favorable committee report on SB489. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 410.703.5352 or jeanette.ortiz@umaryland.edu with any questions or if UMB can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs