

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

**SB489**  
**Favorable**

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

**DATE:** March 30, 2026

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

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Johns Hopkins supports **SB489 Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in Foreign Countries – Exemption From Educational Requirements and Limited License**. This bill, as amended, establishes a new limited license and specific eligibility criteria for obtaining a limited license, including but not limited to having a degree from an accredited medical school outside the U.S., completing at least two years of training in an accredited residency program, and having an offer of employment with a participating health care facility.

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 since 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 through the creation of a limited license. However, other states have adopted more robust legislation that supports and advances the pipeline of internationally trained physicians practicing in the U.S. Moreover, we believe Maryland should be a leader in employing credentialed internationally trained physicians through alternative pathways like our neighboring states.

To that end, Johns Hopkins appreciates the ongoing conversations with the bill sponsors, Maryland Board of Physicians, and other stakeholders regarding licensure and workforce challenges. These conversations have been thoughtful and solutions-oriented, and we are encouraged by the shared commitment to ensuring that Maryland patients have timely access to high-quality care through the recruitment of internationally trained physicians. We are optimistic about the future prospects for employing skilled, foreign-trained physicians who can make significant contributions to health care delivery in Maryland.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB489**.