



BILL NO.: SB 489
TITLE: Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in Foreign Countries - Exemption From Educational Requirements and Limited License
COMMITTEE: Health
POSITION: Letter of Support With Amendments
DATE: March 31, 2026

The Maryland Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (GOIA) submits this Letter of Support with Amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 489: Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in Foreign Countries - Exemption From Educational Requirements and Limited License.

GOIA supports SB 489 because it promotes access to licensure for immigrant Marylanders trained as physicians abroad, while also allowing Maryland to benefit from the education, skills, and experience of a larger pool of qualified practitioners.

We join the Board of Physicians in proposing an amendment to adopt a pathway to full, permanent licensure for these applicants upon successful completion of their limited license term. Efforts to address the issue of foreign-trained physicians have consistently focused on strengthening and sustaining the healthcare workforce. However, to effectively attract and retain qualified physicians in Maryland, and to ensure continued care for Maryland patients, it is essential that the legislation include a pathway to full, unrestricted licensure that acknowledges the compliance and expertise of internationally-trained physicians who pursue licensure in Maryland. Absent such a pathway, the State risks limiting the initiative's long-term impact and missing a critical opportunity to build a stable, enduring physician workforce.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Jo Moley, (jo.moley@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Moley".

Jo Moley
Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 20715