



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 489- Physicians - Licensing - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools**

**Position: *Support***  
February 17, 2026  
Senate Finance Committee

**MHA Position**

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 489.

Maryland hospitals often struggle to recruit and retain physicians, especially in rural and underserved areas. The need is highest for anesthesiologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists, primary care physicians, psychiatrists, and radiologists.<sup>1</sup> For example, job postings in Maryland for anesthesiologists rose 367% between January 2019 and December 2025, according to the Maryland Department of Labor.

There are many barriers to licensure for internationally trained physicians wanting to practice in Maryland, making it challenging for hospitals to successfully recruit. To obtain licensure through the process of Conceded Eminence, physicians must have extensive research experience including proof that within the 10 years before the application, the physician published original results of clinical research, in a medical journal listed in the Index Medicus or in an equivalent scholarly publication acceptable to the Board.

Additionally, the physician must indicate they developed a treatment modality, surgical technique, or other verified original contribution to the field of medicine, attested to by the dean of a school of medicine in the state or by the director of the National Institutes of Health.<sup>2</sup> These requirements, which are only one component of extensive licensure requirements, are incredibly high standards that do not necessarily indicate a physician's competency in practicing medicine or pattern of positive clinical outcomes.

Maryland hospitals also utilize the [Maryland Conrad State 30 \(J-1 Visa Waiver\) Program](#) for international recruitment. Through this program, in exchange for the visa waiver, the physician agrees to work in an underserved area of the state for three years. Although beneficial, each year, only 30 physician slots are available for the entire state.

Passage of SB 489 would not remove all barriers to the licensure. However, it would ease some of the challenges faced by internationally trained physicians.

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<sup>1</sup> Global Data. (2023). "Maryland Physician Workforce Projections: 2023-2036."

<sup>2</sup> [Pages - 10.32.13.03.aspx](#)

We look forward to continued conversations on how the state can support recruitment of internationally trained physicians living in the U.S. and abroad.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 489.

For more information, please contact:

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