

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Paul. G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 17, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 523 – *Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 523.

Senate Bill 523 defines the term “immigrant” as an individual whose country of origin is one other than the United States and who is not a citizen, but is a resident of the State. The bill then prohibits a professional board from denying a license to an immigrant if the person otherwise meets all educational, training, and professional requirements for licensure. In the case of physicians, this would apply to the Board of Physicians.

MedChi believes this is a reasonable bill that would allow only fully qualified physicians to become licensed, so regardless of one’s immigration status, patients are ensured that the physician meets the same basic standards of education and training as any other physician licensed in Maryland. The last two years have illustrated how fragile our health care workforce is in times of emergency, so this bill helps to ensure that the State is not turning away qualified physician applicants.

For these reasons, MedChi supports Senate Bill 523.

For more information call:

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