

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 187 – *Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 187.

Senate Bill 187 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 187.