

Aida Avdic, MD Statement in Support for S 142

1/27/2026

I am writing to you to express my support for S 142, which would create an alternative pathway to medical licensure for eligible internationally trained physicians to practice medicine in Vermont.

I have practiced medicine in Vermont for the last 14 years, as a hospitalist physician at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and more recently as the Chief Medical Officer at BMH.

The United States continues to experience shortage of physicians, and this is particularly evident in the rural communities, such as Vermont, where there are no ready pipelines of newly trained physicians entering workforce, compared to more urban communities. Vermont physician workforce, much like the rest of Vermont, is aging, and the adequate replacement and recruitment is incredibly challenging for many Vermont health care institutions. This shortage creates ongoing challenges in access and continuity of care for Vermonters.

I am encouraging Vermont to create an alternative license pathway to the internationally trained physicians and to model our pathway very closely to our neighboring states, such as Massachusetts in order to stay competitive and not create additional barriers to the practice of medicine.

In particular, I am encouraging Vermont to revisit the current draft requirement that applicants must have practiced medicine for three of the past five years preceding their application. This high threshold will exclude qualified physicians who have faced protracted displacement or barriers to practice, which are common among internationally trained physicians. Please consider the requirement of 'at least one year of practice in last 5-7 years, pending the application'. This will align Vermont with surrounding states' pathways.

On a personal note, while I am US trained physician, I am an immigrant and my journey to the US took over 2 years due to displacement to another country and the length of the immigration process. It is likely that many qualified physicians face similar obstacles and are unlikely to maintain the practice standard of three out of five years preceding the application. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement of support.

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