



1/27/26

Statement in Support of S. 142

To Whom It May Concern,

We write in strong support of S.142 and the creation of an alternative pathway to medical licensure for eligible, qualified, and skilled internationally trained physicians to practice medicine in Vermont.

Vermont's endemic labor shortage does not exclude the Healthcare Sector, and the impacts of these shortages have harmful- and costly- ripple effects across our local communities and regional economies. From eldercare to family medicine, the quality of care in Vermont can only be sustained by ensuring there's the adequate workforce to provide the services needed.

As indicated by researchers at UVM, Vermont faces a critical shortage of primary care providers 115FTEs below national benchmarks in 2022, with projections rising to a 370 FTE deficit by 2030 across family medicine, internal medicine, OB/GYN, and pediatrics.

As the primary workforce and education counselor for newly arrived IMG's in Vermont, I have witnessed both the incredible skillsets and backgrounds of internationally trained physicians, and the exasperation of having those skills be underutilized and undervalued. Of the 7 physicians who have arrived since 2021 that I have worked with, none have successfully sought to pursue the existing relicensing pathway due to the cost, time, and simple inability to complete the pathway in their new, home state of Vermont.

I hope the current draft can be revisited to remove the requirement related to the recency of practice, as it could preclude otherwise eligible and skilled physicians who have faced substantial displacement. In my discussions with CEO's and other healthcare leaders across Vermont, hospitals are ready and willing to accept responsibility for maintaining a high quality of care without this standard in place.

Lastly, in looking to other states' policy regarding immigrant economic inclusion across the country, I believe that Vermont is capable of modernizing its approach. We can, and should, join the growing coalition of states actively investing in alternative pathways for New Americans. Doing so would help ensure that all Vermont communities, economies, and working families can thrive.

Sincerely,

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