



Statement of Support for Arizona House Bill 2435

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The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) strongly supports Arizona House Bill 2435, introduced by Representative Selina Bliss, which creates a supervised pathway for internationally trained physicians to practice in Arizona.

Arizona is facing a critical and worsening physician shortage. Patients across the state, particularly in rural, tribal and Latino communities experience long wait times, delayed diagnoses, and significant travel distances to access basic medical services. According to projections from the University of Arizona, Arizona will require nearly 2,000 additional primary care physicians by 2030, yet the state currently meets only a fraction of that need.

HB2435 would allow qualified internationally trained physicians who reside in Arizona and elsewhere in the United States to practice in designated underserved communities under structured supervision. Physicians eligible under this pathway would be graduates of accredited medical schools abroad and would practice under direct, on-site supervision by a U.S.-licensed physician for four years.

NHMA supports HB2435 for several key reasons:

- Expands access in high-need communities. The bill prioritizes underserved communities that face the most acute workforce shortages.
- Maintains high standards of care and leverages an existing talent pool. Many internationally trained physicians, already live in Arizona but are unable to practice due to residency bottlenecks. This bill utilizes their training and experience.
- Aligns with national trends. At least 17 states have adopted similar workforce measures to expand access to care while maintaining licensure standards.

Arizona cannot afford to leave qualified physicians on the sidelines while communities go without care. HB2435 is a practical, cost-effective strategy to strengthen the physician workforce and improve timely access to culturally responsive care.

NHMA stands ready to support Arizona lawmakers, health care leaders and community partners in advancing HB2435. We urge the passage of this legislation to help ensure that all

Arizonans have access to the care they need.