



Statement of Support for Pennsylvania House Bill 2121: The Provisional Licensure Pathway for International Medical Doctors Act

WASHINGTON, DC — February 25, 2026

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) strongly supports House Bill 2121, introduced by Pennsylvania state Representative Danilo Burgos, which would establish a supervised provisional licensure pathway for qualified international medical graduates (IMGs) in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania faces significant physician shortages, particularly in primary care and underserved rural and urban communities. Expanding access to care was identified as the top priority in the Pennsylvania Department of Health's 2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan. HB 2121 presents a practical and timely strategy to address these workforce gaps while maintaining rigorous patient safety standards.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Medicine to issue provisional licenses to IMGs who meet strict eligibility criteria, including certification by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), verified medical education and training, English language proficiency and other established safeguards. Provisional licensees would practice under supervision in designated specialties and underserved areas, with strong oversight provisions, annual reporting requirements and a clear pathway to full licensure.

NHMA supports HB 2121 for several key reasons:

- Expands access quickly and responsibly. This model leverages physicians who are already trained and qualified.
- Targets underserved communities. By directing supervised practice to high-need areas, the bill directly aligns workforce policy with access gaps across Pennsylvania.
- Reduces cultural and linguistic barriers. International medical graduates often bring language skills and cultural competence that improve trust and health outcomes in diverse communities.
- Creates opportunity while upholding standards. Thousands of internationally trained physicians are unable to practice due to limited residency slots. This bill provides a structured, supervised pathway that maintains high standards of patient safety.

Similar policies have been implemented in other states with positive outcomes. HB 2121 reflects a balanced approach that responsibly expands access to care while safeguarding quality.

NHMA stands ready to support advocacy efforts with members of the Professional Licensure Committee, House and Senate leadership and other stakeholders to advance this legislation. We urge favorable consideration of House Bill 2121 to strengthen Pennsylvania's physician workforce and improve access to culturally responsive, high-quality care for all Pennsylvanians.