

**TESTIMONY BY THE MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 2268**

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding
Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for
International Medical Graduates**

Reported By: Representative Anne Perry

Public Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services,

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), a coalition of over 100 member organizations dedicated to advancing and defending the rights of immigrants, in support of L.D. 2268. Our mission is to improve the legal, social, and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants, thereby enhancing their lives and strengthening our state through advocacy, information sharing, and collaboration among our member organizations.

L.D. 2268, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for International Medical Graduates," presents a strategic opportunity to address critical shortages in our healthcare workforce while enriching our state's cultural and professional landscape.

By establishing a sponsorship program for International Medical Graduates (IMG), we create pathways for these highly skilled individuals to contribute their expertise to Maine's healthcare system. This initiative not only enhances access to quality care for all Mainers but also fosters a diverse and inclusive healthcare workforce that reflects the richness of our immigrant communities.

The structured pathway being offered to professional licensure and employment within Maine's healthcare sector is key but not the full picture. By providing support, resources, and mentorship through the sponsorship program, we empower IMGs to realize their aspirations and fulfill their potential as valued members of our healthcare workforce. This bill signifies our commitment to recognizing and harnessing the talent and expertise of IMGs, thereby strengthening our state's healthcare infrastructure and fostering a climate of inclusion and innovation.

In addition to its direct benefits, L.D. 2268 underscores our commitment to equitable governance and collaborative decision-making. We advocate for the inclusion of mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency in the administration of the sponsorship program, recognizing the importance of robust oversight to safeguard the interests of all stakeholders.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to recognize the transformative potential of L.D. 2268 and support its passage. We can invest in the health and well-being of our communities while harnessing the talents of IMGs to build a brighter future for Maine. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation.

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