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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE  
137 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0137

Maroulla S. Gleaton, MD  
CHAIR

Timothy E. Terranova  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 19, 2024

Senator Donna Bailey, Chair  
Representative Anne Perry, Chair  
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: LD 2267 – “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Support International Medical Graduates in Securing Employment”**

Dear Senator Bailey and Representative Perry:

The Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine (“BOLIM”) licenses and regulates allopathic physicians and physician assistants in Maine. BOLIM is composed of 11 members: 6 physicians who actively practice medicine; 2 physician assistants who actively render medical services; and 3 public members. BOLIM’s mission is to protect the public by ensuring its licensees are ethical, professional and competent. It fulfills this mission by licensing, regulating, and educating physician and physician assistants.

BOLIM offers the following comments in favor of LD 2267:

LD 2267 is the result of the work produced by the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine. BOLIM would like to thank the members of the commission for their thoughtfulness and insight during the process. Although the subjects of LD2267 fall outside of BOLIM’s purview, it believes that LD2267 is needed to ensure that its companion bill LD2268 is as successful as possible.

BOLIM has one concern where it believes the language of the bill does not meet the discussion and intent of the commission’s recommendation. The commission discussed, at great length, the difference between an “international medical graduate” and an “internationally trained physician”.

LD2267 uses the definition for an “international medical graduate”, which means, “an individual who has received a degree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent from a legally chartered medical school outside the United States recognized by the World Health Organization and who has lived in this State for at least 12 months.”

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This definition fails to include training and/or practice and would allow physicians who go to school in other parts of the world, such as the Caribbean, to access the programs in this bill. BOLIM does not believe that was the intent of the commission.

The definition of “internationally trained physician” in LD2268 states, “a physician who has received a degree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent from a legally chartered medical school outside the United States recognized by the World Health Organization or its successor organization; who has been licensed or otherwise authorized to practice medicine in a country other than the United States; who has practiced medicine for at least one year; and who has lived in this State for at least 12 months.”

This definition more closely reflects the commission’s discussion, although the commission did not decide on how many years someone would need to have practiced in another country before being eligible. The commission left that question for this committee.

Based on this understanding of the differences in definitions, BOLIM recommends replacing the term “international medical graduate” and its definition with “internationally trained physician” everywhere it appears in LD2267 in order to maintain consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments regarding LD 2267. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy E. Terranova", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy E. Terranova  
Executive Director