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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 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”

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 2268:

LD 2268 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. BOLIM would ask the committee to make a few clarifications to the bill based on its understanding of the commission's work.

LD2268 uses the term, “International Medical Graduates Sponsorship Program”, which is a program that would be created by LD 2267. BOLIM recommends that the term “international medical graduate” be replaced with “internationally trained physician” for consistency and clarity.

The definition of “internationally trained physician” includes the requirement that they have “practiced medicine for at least one year.” The commission did not make a specific recommendation regarding how many years someone would need to have practiced in another country before becoming eligible for the program and left that question for this committee. It is important for the committee to be aware that US trained physicians must have at least three years of post-graduate training prior to receiving a license.

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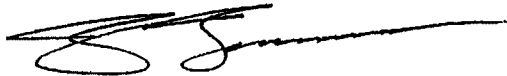
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In Section 2 E, the bill discusses the service obligation through restricted practice at a sponsoring institution. The commission's recommendation was that the service obligation be the same as the number of years in the sponsorship program. Section E appears to allow the service obligation to end after a minimum of 2 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments regarding LD 2268. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Terranova', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Timothy E. Terranova
Executive Director