

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

Reported: 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 with a commitment to advancing and defending the rights of immigrants, in support of L.D. 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." Our mission is to improve the legal, social, and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing, and collaboration both through and among our member organizations.

This bill presents opportunities and benefits for Maine and international medical graduates (IMGs) residing in our state as it offers a practical solution to address critical shortages in our healthcare workforce. By facilitating the integration of IMGs into our healthcare system, we enhance access to quality care for all Mainers, particularly in underserved rural areas. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure, ensuring our communities receive the medical attention they require.

Additionally, L.D. 2267 directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to collaborate with educational institutions in developing programs for IMGs to enter and complete alternative healthcare career paths such as physician assistant, nurse, or nurse practitioner programs. This initiative not only incorporates IMGs into the healthcare workforce and communities but also serves to bolster the state's economy.

While we support the bill as is, we would also welcome the inclusion of a requirement for regular reporting on the program's progress, recognizing the complexities inherent in its implementation. Such transparency ensures accountability and informs decision-making, facilitating the refinement of policies to better serve all stakeholders.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to recognize the importance of L.D. 2267 and support its passage. Following the recommendations of a diverse set of stakeholders, we can invest in the health and well-being of our communities while providing IMGs with the opportunity to thrive professionally. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

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