



INFORMATIONAL TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 476

**Senate Committee on Health Care
February 27, 2025**

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Health Care Committee,

SB 476 with the -1 amendment creates a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians in Oregon. The base bill would also place requirements on all professional licensing boards and create an Internationally Educated Workforce Reentry Grant Program. The OMB's informational testimony is limited to sections 7, 9, and 10 of the -1 amendment.

Background and Need

Internationally trained physicians are an untapped resource to address workforce shortages in healthcare. In 2024, the Oregon Medical Board introduced Resolution 24-2 "Pathways to Licensure" at the Federation of State Medical Boards' House of Delegates. *The Oregon Medical Board's resolution passed unanimously – it is now national policy that state medical boards should establish consistent licensing pathways for internationally trained physicians.*

Pathway for Internationally Trained Physicians

The Advisory Commission on Additional Licensing Models was established by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), Intealth, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Oregon has been honored to be one of five state medical boards serving on the 17-person Commission which met for nine months and reviewed input from more than 150 individuals and organizations.

The Advisory Commission has issued nine recommendations to guide state legislation. These recommendations are included in Sections 7, 9, and 10 of the -1 amendment:

- Establish clear eligibility criteria for entry into the pathway
 - Equivalent international education and residency training
 - ECFMG certification
 - License in good standing and established practice in an international jurisdiction
- Require appropriate supervision during the provisional period
- Practice in areas of healthcare workforce needs
- Establish a defined pathway to unrestricted licensure
- Maintain the OMB's authority to establish specific requirements through rulemaking

Benefits to Oregon

1. **Address critical healthcare shortages.** Internationally trained physicians can help fill gaps in our healthcare system, particularly in underserved areas.
2. **Maintain high quality standards.** The bill includes robust requirements for education, training, and supervision to ensure quality care.
3. **Utilize existing skills and experience.** Internationally trained physicians bring valuable training and experience that is currently going unused.
4. **Increase diversity in our healthcare workforce.** Internationally trained physicians often bring cultural and linguistic competencies that improve care for diverse populations.

Sections 7, 9, and 10 of the -1 amendment to SB 476 represent a thoughtful, balanced approach to expanding our healthcare workforce while maintaining the patient safety standards for Oregon patients.

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