



March 4, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the state's oldest and largest professional association for physicians and physicians-in-training, I want to thank Sen. Mann for her work on SF 3611, the bill would create a separate pathway for international medical graduates (IMGs) who do not qualify for licensure. The MMA supports the goals of this bill – to create an avenue for highly educated and qualified IMGs to be brought into the Minnesota healthcare workforce and be able to utilize their specialized training.

Current Minnesota law requires that an IMG have at least one year of graduate clinical medical training at an ACGME-approved program. This requirement ensures a minimum level of standardization for physicians to receive a Minnesota medical license. SF 3611 provides an alternative path for IMGs who meet certain criteria. The MMA asks that there be assurances of the minimal competency of an IMG licensed under this new pathway.

The alternate pathway to licensure created by SF 3611 requires two years of supervisory practice. We ask that more definition be included for what this entails to ensure that there are standards surrounding the requirements of this relationship.

While this alternative pathway will allow licensure, as currently written, IMGs licensed under the criteria in SF 3611 would not be eligible for board certification because they have not attended a U.S. residency program. Most medical liability insurers require the completion of a U.S. residency for a physician to obtain malpractice insurance, and most insurers, Medicare, and Medicaid require board certification or board eligibility to be credentialed and be reimbursed for services. These are barriers that must be addressed for this program to be successful.

Again, we thank Sen. Mann for working to provide a pathway for the hundreds of IMGs currently living in Minnesota and unable to obtain a Minnesota medical license and the MMA stands ready to work with her to find a solution that will ensure a minimum standard of care and support IMGs in securing employment opportunities.

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Sincerely,

Laurel Ries, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association