



February 24, 2025

Submitted via e-mail

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
1100 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 509 (Mann) Internationally Trained Physicians

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for your consideration of SF 509 which establishes a path for internationally trained physicians to attain physician licensure in Minnesota. The Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC) represents the state's 17 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs serve nearly 200,000 low-income Minnesotans throughout the state in medically underserved communities providing primary medical, dental and behavioral health care all under one roof.

Whether our health centers are located in the heart of the Twin Cities or a small town in greater Minnesota, the ability to recruit and retain all levels of staff continues to be our foremost challenge. Physician recruitment and retention is no exception.

MNACHC recognizes that there are still conversations to be had, and encourage the perspective of physicians and the Board of Medical Practice as this bill is perfected and implemented. And, we know currently there are individuals in FQHCs serving their communities- often connected by a language and culture of the patients and populations we serve. Their presence provides rich patient experience, builds our community of practice and adds depth to our care teams.

In an era of workforce shortages, where qualified staff would allow for increased access to needed services, we support additional pathways for individuals to more fully serve their communities.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Westlund
Director of Public Policy