

## **Bridging the Gap: Empowering Supervised Graduates to Expand Maryland's Physician Workforce**

To Ms. Chairman and honorable committee.

I am Manu Mathew, a national advocate for unmatched medical graduates and in strong support of the House Bill 757, a Bridge to Medical Residency Act.

The state is facing a gaping shortage in the supply of physicians that endangers the existing ability of the patients to have timely, quality care. This legislature produces a platform for medical school graduates who are already under supervision while they wait for placement in residency programs. It affords those graduates who have successfully passed the medical licensing exams the chance to perform the tasks delegated to a directly supervising licensed physician.

To maintain current rates of primary care utilization in Maryland, an additional 1,052 primary care physicians will be needed by 2030, representing a 23% increase over the 2010 primary care workforce (Robert Graham Center, 2013). Nevertheless, these very enthusiastic students can start straight providing such services for patients if opportunities are provided. By empowering paraprofessionals through House Bill 757, they have a great opportunity to contribute to increased provider capacity for healthcare delivery.

The bill establishes the right level of safety for patients, guidance for physicians, and workforce requirements. Supervised graduates should have mandatory stringent educational and licensing requirements before treating patients. Therefore, supervising physicians remain accountable for the care their teams deliver. There are also accountability measures.

Policy success of House Bill 757 would then cover the ground of the health-care accessibility by raising the number of physicians in the State. It is a virtual tool that removes the present physical barriers that prevent opportunities for graduates to continue medicine after investing time and resources in their education. Positively, it would be conducive to a strong conveyor belt of future doctors who choose to dedicate their careers to the communities for decades.

The sponsorship of this bill by the senator and the thoughtfulness shown by the committee members to grow Maryland's healthcare workforce through novel, innovative solutions must be highly commended. We recommend taking a proactive step towards the future of our healthcare system by asking for supportive action on House Bill 757. This initiative will, in turn, serve as a lifeline to individuals who are suffering across our state. We truly appreciate your time and effort in addressing this critical bill.

Furthermore, this law is a trial for those states that aim to increase healthcare access and solve doctor deficit issues. The mere passage of this bill will give Maryland the first step to the creation of avenues for the supervised recent medical graduates to begin attending to patients immediately. It is clear that even in cases of insufficient residency posts, it is still possible to trigger laid-back young people who like the medical profession to serve their community. Here is an exciting opportunity to pave the way for emerging clinician leaders who convene to tackle the greater duty of improving the outgrown healthcare workforce in the country.

Thank You,

Manu Mathew