

HB22-1050: CREATING PATHWAYS TO STRENGTHEN COLORADO'S PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

Communities across Colorado face healthcare worker shortages—often to the detriment of residents who lack access to essential preventative and ongoing care. This pain is acutely felt in rural and underserved regions. In fact, the [U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration](#) currently designates 123 Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas and 48 Medically Underserved Areas in Colorado.

Meanwhile, Colorado is home to a robust community of new Americans—known as **International Medical Graduates (IMGs)**—who completed their medical training outside of the U.S. or Canada and whose skills are currently underutilized. Too often, their expertise is wasted or lost to other states,

Last year, Governor Jared Polis and [12 state legislators](#) tasked the longstanding Nurse-Physician Advisory Task Force for Colorado Healthcare ([NPATCH](#)) under the Department of Regulatory Agencies with crafting policy proposals regarding the licensure of IMGs. NPATCH's resulting [recommendations](#) form the basis of the provisions in [HB22-1050](#).

Colorado's Healthcare Workforce Is Falling Short & Missing Out

- By 2030, Colorado is expected to have a statewide shortage of over 2,400 physicians.
- In 2021, IMGs represented 21% of medical residency matches nationwide compared to only 4.2% in Colorado. Only 2.5% of IMGs have matched to a Colorado residency program in the past decade.
- 35 counties in Colorado have areas that are considered medically underserved.

HB22-1050 ADDRESSES COLORADO'S PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE WITH IMPROVED LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR IMGs BY:

- Creating programs to assist IMGs in navigating the re-licensure process.
- Establishing hands-on clinical readiness programs.
- Equalizing IMG residency licensing requirements to be the same as those for U.S. medical graduates.
- Earmarking residency slots for IMGs in Colorado.
- Extending physician re-entry licenses for exceptionally qualified IMGs.

VOTE YES ON HB22-1050

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WHO ARE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES?

IMGs include refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa recipients, and other immigrants who are eager to contribute their expertise as physicians and healthcare professionals in Colorado

Despite completing medical school and practicing in their home countries, IMGs have to redo expensive and time consuming parts of that process and overcome other inequitable barriers for a fair chance at practicing medicine in the U.S.

WASTED TALENT, UNDERSERVED PATIENTS

300+ 

IMGs in Colorado currently prevented from entering the healthcare workforce.

 2

counties in rural Colorado lack even a single practicing physician.

1,900+ 

patients that can be served annually per every physician added to Colorado's workforce.