



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Jason Anavitarte
Majority Leader
Georgia State Senate
421-F State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Randy Robertson
Majority Whip
Georgia State Senate
421-D State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Harold Jones II
Minority Leader
Georgia State Senate
121-B State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Kim Jackson
Minority Whip
Georgia State Senate
321-B CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Majority Leader Anavitarte, Majority Whip Robertson, Minority Leader Jones, Minority Whip Jackson:

On behalf of Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT), we write to strongly support Senate Bill 427, legislation creating a limited provisional license and structured pathway to full licensure for internationally trained physicians. [H-STAT](#) represents the voices of many healthcare professionals, students, and advocates across Georgia. We respectfully request that you vote in favor of this bill.

Georgia is facing a [growing physician shortage](#) that is limiting access to timely, high-quality medical care across the state. In many rural counties, patients must [travel long distances](#), endure [extended wait times](#), and risk [delayed diagnoses](#) for treatable conditions simply because there are not enough primary care physicians and specialists. This is not an abstract policy concern; it is a daily reality affecting the health and well-being of people in Georgia. SB 427 offers a carefully regulated, responsible solution to communities that need help most by allowing provisionally licensed physicians to practice under supervision in rural counties, licensed hospitals, and accredited medical schools. Our support for this legislation is grounded in three core principles: expanding access to care, strengthening rural health systems, and advancing equity.

Georgia is home to many internationally trained physicians who are legally present and authorized to work in the United States, yet remain unable to practice medicine due to [structural and bureaucratic barriers](#). These are highly qualified individuals whose skills and training are going unused while communities around them go underserved. SB 427 creates a clear, supervised pathway for these physicians to contribute meaningfully to Georgia's healthcare system, not by lowering standards, but by removing unnecessary obstacles for those who have already demonstrated competency.

Full-time employment and structured supervision requirements ensure that these physicians are integrated responsibly and safely into their communities. Rural hospitals, which often struggle with [recruitment and retention](#), will gain a meaningful tool to stabilize their workforce, support their staff, and sustain essential services for surrounding communities. A stronger physician workforce in underserved areas also supports local economies and improves long-term community health outcomes.

Access to quality healthcare should not be determined by your zip code. For too long, geographic and systemic inequities have meant that patients in rural Georgia receive a lower standard of care than their urban counterparts. SB 427 is an equity measure, one that recognizes the talent already present in our communities and creates the conditions for it to be put to work in the service of those who need it most. International medical graduates have long contributed to the American healthcare system, and Georgia has an opportunity to lead in responsibly expanding that contribution.

We urge the Georgia Senate to pass SB 427 and take a meaningful step toward ensuring that every Georgian has access to high-quality, timely medical care. The need is real, the solution is sound, and the time to act is now.

Thank you for your consideration of the issue. We look forward to working with you to promote the health of people in Georgia. If you have any questions, please contact Anjali Patel, H-STAT Board Member, at anjali@healthstatgeorgia.org.

Sincerely,

Anjali Patel
H-STAT Immigration Health Director
Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT)