



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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New Pathway for Qualified Health Care Professionals to Serve Oregonians Opens Under Senate Bill Passed Today

Internationally educated and trained doctors can help fill provider shortages in Oregon

SALEM, OR – More than 800,000 Oregonians live in areas that have a shortage of primary care medical providers, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Legislation passed in the Oregon Senate today can help ease this scarcity by creating a pathway for doctors educated and trained internationally to become licensed in Oregon.

“The program is ‘win-win’ for our state,” said chief sponsor of the bill, **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – East Portland, Boring & Damascus)**. “It helps solve workforce gaps here and allows Oregon immigrants to continue in their chosen profession.”

Senate Bill 476 allows a physician to get a provisional license in Oregon under the supervision of a local doctor when the provider has come here after practicing in another country. They can apply for full licensure in Oregon after four years of full-time practice.

The measure sets eligibility criteria for issuing a provisional license to internationally trained physicians. Those include:

- Graduating with a degree substantially similar to an MD or DO degree
- Completing a training program comparable to an approved domestic training program
- Obtaining certification from the Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates
- Practicing medicine in another country or jurisdiction for at least three years in prior experience
- Receiving an offer of employment at a clinical facility that will provide supervision
- Complying with all applicable board rules for similar license applicants
- Providing evidence of good moral character consistent with Oregon law on medical licensure and good standing in every country or jurisdiction where they practiced and received education and training

One Republican joined Senate Democrats in supporting Senate Bill 476. The measure passed in a vote of 18 to 11.

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