



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Wendy Carrillo
DISTRICT 51



Assembly Bill 2478: International Medical Graduates

SUMMARY

AB 2478 will direct the California Medical Board to conduct a study on increasing the existing pool of international medical graduates (IMGs).

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

California is experiencing an increasing shortage of primary care physicians, which is only expected to increase with an aging population. Unfortunately, those areas lacking the most access to medical services have high Latino, Black and Native American populations. As the Latino population continues to grow, the number of Latino physicians has not been able to keep up. It is estimated that the scarcity of Latino physicians in California has led to a deficit of 54,655 Latino physicians that are required to achieve parity with non Latino Whites. This is due to existing barriers such as financial costs, academic barriers, underrepresentation and citizenship issues.

There is also an increasing number of undergraduate students born in the United States who attend medical school in Spanish-speaking countries, and who are considered IMGs. However even with an increasing number of IMGs there is still a shortage of physicians. Research conducted by the UCLA LPPI, found that for every 62 physicians they attend to 100,000 Spanish speaking patients.

California needs Spanish-speaking physicians to meet the needs of limited English proficient patients. Studies have demonstrated that limited English proficient patients benefit with positive health outcomes when cared for by a linguistically capable primary provider. Expanding IMG programs will help increase the supply

of Latino physicians needed to address the growing demand in underserved areas.

SOLUTION

AB 2478 seeks to help medically underserved regions with limited English proficient populations, by increasing bilingual physicians and supporting IMG training programs.

AB 2478 will require the California Medical Board to conduct a study by January 1, 2022 to expand the existing pool of IMGs. The study will provide recommendations on how to recruit bilingual physicians trained in Spanish-speaking countries and identify ways to support IMG training programs.

SUPPORT

AltaMed (Co-Sponsor)
CA Academy Family Physicians
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
California Medicine Coalition
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Los Angeles County Medical Association
UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

Former California State Senator Hernandez

OPPOSITION

California Medical Board

STAFF CONTACT

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