

House Business Affairs & Labor

05/06/2026

HB26-1431 Competency for Occupational Licensure Portability

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Abdul Mubin Sultan Khil For themselves	<p>My name is Abdul Mubin Sultan Khil, and I am currently working as a Research Associate at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in refugee mental health and addiction research and treatment services.</p> <p>I respectfully support HB 26-1431 regarding occupational licensure portability.</p> <p>As an Afghan Medical Doctor and public health professional with more than 19 years of experience in public health, addiction prevention, and treatment, I understand the challenges internationally educated professionals face when trying to continue their careers in the United States.</p> <p>Recently, I applied for a Master’s degree program in Biostatistics. Unfortunately, due to current policies, I was required to verify my educational documents through WES (World Education Services). However, after the collapse of the Afghan government in 2021, the Taliban took control, and many document verification processes for Afghans living outside the country became unavailable. At the same time, WES stopped processing many Afghan educational documents. Because of these barriers, I had to change my educational path from pursuing a second Master’s degree to a certification program.</p> <p>My wife also faces similar challenges. She is a Medical Doctor and specialist in Gynecology and Obstetrics and worked for more than 16 years in maternal and child health programs in Afghanistan, including work with Johns Hopkins University. However, despite her qualifications and extensive experience, she is currently working as a Research Associate and Navigator, which reflects the underutilization of highly skilled professionals who have not yet been able to access professional opportunities in their fields. She continues to face significant barriers in Colorado related to document verification, licensing, and opportunities to work in skilled professional positions.</p> <p>Many internationally educated professionals are ready to contribute their skills and experience to Colorado communities, especially in healthcare and behavioral health services. This bill can help reduce</p>

	<p>unnecessary barriers while maintaining professional standards and improving access to culturally responsive care for diverse populations.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Abdul Mubin Sultan Khil</p>
<p>DIANA VALENCIA</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Mi nombre es Diana Valencia, vivo en la Junta Colorado desde hace 6 años, soy Terapeuta Respiratoria con más de 15 años de experiencia, especializada en el cuidado de pacientes en la unidad neonatal (NICU). Amplia trayectoria en el manejo de recién nacidos prematuros y pacientes críticos, incluyendo soporte ventilatorio, monitoreo de gases arteriales y manejo de equipos especializados. Experiencia en trabajo interdisciplinario con médicos y personal de enfermería para garantizar una atención integral y de alta calidad. Comprometida con la seguridad del paciente y la mejora continua de los procesos clínicos.</p> <p>Espero poder ejercer en Colorado</p> <p>My name is Diana Valencia. I have lived in La Junta, Colorado, for six years. I am a Respiratory Therapist with over 15 years of experience, specializing in patient care within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). I possess an extensive background in the management of premature newborns and critically ill patients, including ventilatory support, arterial blood gas monitoring, and the operation of specialized equipment. I have experience working collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams with physicians and nursing staff to ensure comprehensive, high-quality patient care. I am committed to patient safety and the continuous improvement of clinical processes.</p> <p>I look forward to practicing in Colorado.</p>
<p>Tea Todua</p> <p>For Colorado Georgian Community Association Ertoba</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of the Colorado Georgian Community Association (Ertoba), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 26-1431, the Competency for Occupational Licensure Portability bill.</p> <p>Our organization represents a vibrant and growing community of immigrants, including many highly educated and skilled foreign-trained professionals—physicians, nurses, therapists, engineers, and other specialists—who are eager to contribute meaningfully to Colorado’s workforce. Unfortunately, many face significant barriers to licensure despite having extensive training and years of professional experience.</p>

	<p>HB 26-1431 is a critical and forward-thinking step toward addressing this challenge. By ensuring that licensing boards fairly consider the education, training, and professional experience obtained outside the United States, this bill promotes a more equitable and competency-based system.</p> <p>This legislation is not only important for foreign-trained professionals—it is a meaningful investment in Colorado’s future. At a time when many sectors, particularly healthcare, are facing workforce shortages, enabling qualified professionals to re-enter their fields will strengthen our economy, improve access to essential services, and better serve our diverse communities.</p> <p>We have seen firsthand the untapped potential within immigrant communities—individuals who are ready to work, contribute, and give back, but are often underemployed due to systemic barriers. This bill offers a pathway to unlock that potential while maintaining professional standards and public safety.</p> <p>Colorado has long been a leader in innovation and inclusion. Supporting HB 26-1431 reinforces these values and demonstrates a commitment to recognizing talent, regardless of where it was trained.</p> <p>We respectfully urge you to support this important legislation.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Colorado Georgian Community Association (Ertoba)</p>
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