

Expanding The Mental Health Workforce: Meeting The Needs of an Increasingly Diverse Georgia

1 LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

SB 529 to streamline licensing for experienced international physicians passes House and narrowly misses final agree in Senate.

BHRIC gives unanimous support 2nd year in a row for similar licensing reform for international mental health clinicians.

Multiple study committees endorse such reforms.

2 AGENCY PROGRESS

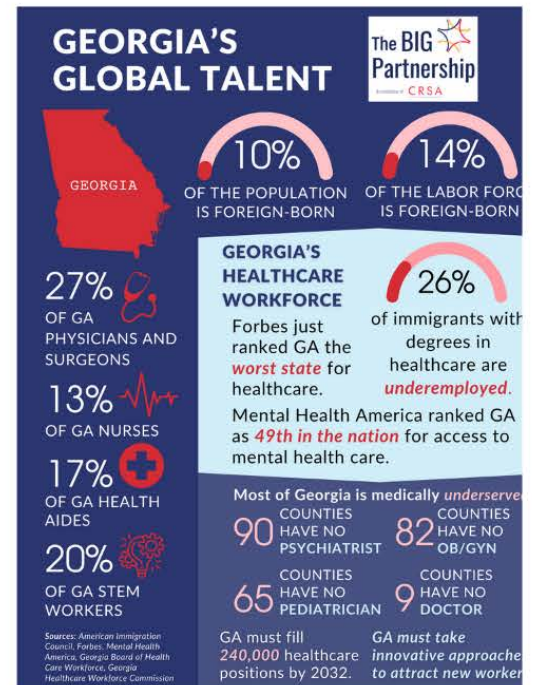
DBHDD agrees to conduct Georgia's 1st statewide gap analysis into the unmet mental health needs of its refugee & immigrant communities.

DBHDD invests in expanding cultural & linguistic access to 988.

DHBDD secures grant to diversify peer workforce by drawing from refugee & immigrant communities

3 COMMUNITY PROGRESS

Dekalb CSB and CHOA expand access to culturally & linguistically responsive care, inc. first CSB case manager to serve refugee families at Clarkston Hub & Hughes-Spalding pilot clinic for refugee & immigrant children



SB 529

All physicians who move to GA from abroad must re-do a residency, even if they have years of experience.

It can take many years & thousands of dollars to secure a residency spot and many never practice again.

Under SB 529, internationally-trained physicians could apply for a full license after passing all US medical exams and working for 4 yrs. under a limited license, inc. 2 yrs. in an underserved area.

SB 529 is based on a VA bill signed into law in April. A similar TN bill passed last year attracted 250+ inquiries/mth.

Georgia risks losing its global talent to less diverse states in the competition to fill healthcare workforce shortages.