



Association of Kerala Medical Graduates

www.akmg.org

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April 9, 2020

President of the United States

Office of the President at the White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Re: Petition by AKMG to fast track the permanent residency status of 20,000 US trained international physicians who are legally here

Honorable Mr. President

AKMG, the oldest association of Physicians from India (Kerala State), kindly request your action to fast track the permanent residency status of these doctors who have been USA trained and legally living in USA for over 10 years in many cases.

As you are aware physician shortage has been an issue for many years and now in this pandemic crisis; the effects of the shortage are manifesting. Doctors have now become the frontline soldiers in this war against Coronavirus, as rightfully called out by you, Mr. President. The burden on the current healthcare system has increased many folds and the brunt of the aftermath of the pandemic in terms of chronic health issues is yet to come. In many parts of the country, hospitals are already short of doctors and if a few physicians go on a quarantine or fall sick, physician access to these communities will worsen.

These physicians are not able to participate readily in physician workforce effectively because of the following limitations.

- HHS has taken the decision to waive license requirements to work across the states. However, when it comes to US trained international physicians practicing in the US, they can only work in their allocated hospitals.
- If a physician practicing in the US on VISA gets sick and dies, the physician's family will have no choice but get deported.
- State and the country have been advocating for tele health, but Visa physicians cannot be part of that either

They see COVID 19 patients every day in the hospital and are thankful to offer their services to the members of their community. There are thousands of physicians predominantly who are right now at the front lines in this battle with no immediate hope to address the above-mentioned concerns.

Bills like Conrad 30 reauthorization act (S 948/HR 2895) enjoy a great bipartisan support (15 co-sponsors in the senate and 80 co-sponsors in the house) are a potential long-term solution to solve physician shortage and help many doctors in Visa relief from visa restrictions, but **in this moment of national crisis we look to your leadership to resolve this immediately.**



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Recalling history, whenever there was a major national emergency like a World War; the heroes who fought for this country were granted citizenship. On behalf of all of my colleagues who are in the battle every day, with an unsteady future at the back of their minds, **we humbly request your executive action in fast tracking their permanent residency process.**

Thank you, Mr. President,

GOD Bless America

Regards

Usha Mohandas, MD FACP

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