



ASN Supports the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN), supports the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act. More than 37 million Americans are living with kidney diseases including more than 750,000 with kidney failure, a life-threatening condition which requires specialized care from highly trained medical professionals.

The United States is currently facing a physician shortage. While the shortage impacts all Americans in need of kidney care, those in rural areas are disproportionately impacted. ASN is invested in ensuring there is a robust pipeline of kidney health care professionals to meet the needs of all Americans living with kidney diseases and kidney failure, including international medical graduates, who make up the majority of the US nephrology workforce.

Currently doctors from other countries working in America on J-1 visas are required to return to their home country after their residency has ended for two years before they can apply for another visa or green card. The Conrad 30 program established in 1994 and reauthorized in 2003 has allowed doctors to stay in the United States without having to return home if they agree to practice in an underserved area for three years. Increasing access to nephrologists will improve kidney care for Americans living with kidney disease in rural and underserved areas, and with “the United States facing an unprecedented shortage of up to 121,000 physicians by 2030” the Conrad 30 program will help mitigate that shortage.

The Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act would reauthorize this important program, allowing “dual intent” for J-1 visa physicians seeking graduate medical education along with establishing new employment protections and a streamlined pathway to a green card for participants. It would also allow the program to expand beyond 30 slots if certain nationwide thresholds are met, creating three new slots per state to be used by academic medical centers.

ASN firmly supports the reauthorization of this critical program, which assists in bringing lifesaving care to people with kidney disease living in rural areas and protects the nephrology workforce. To discuss ASN’s position on this legislation please contact ASN Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Rachel Meyer by email at rmeyer@asn-online.org or phone (202) 640-4659.