



May 27, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Cole, Finkenauer, and Bacon:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 6788/S. 3599, the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act*. Thank you for introducing this legislation to strengthen the nation's healthcare workforce during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ACC envisions a world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes. As the professional home for the entire cardiovascular team, the mission of the College and its more than 52,000 members is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health. The ACC bestows credentials upon cardiovascular professionals who meet stringent qualifications and leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College also provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research through its world-renowned JACC Journals, operates national registries to measure and improve care, and offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions.

The *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* would allow the recapture of 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas from prior fiscal years, and these unused visas could go to International Medical Graduates (IMG) who are critically needed in our response to COVID-19. The bill recognizes the urgency of the public health emergency by requiring the Department of Homeland Security and State Department to expedite the processing of recaptured visas, ensuring that clinicians will begin helping patients as soon as possible.

The COVID-19 crisis has underscored the need to address the mounting clinician shortage and ensure our healthcare workers are supported while providing care. IMGs are an important part of our healthcare workforce and play a vital role in treating our most vulnerable populations but may face limitations in serving their communities due to immigration status. We recognize their critical contributions on the front lines, and this legislation allows those healthcare workers to serve where they are most needed.

The ACC commends you for your leadership in enhancing access to care during this unprecedented public health crisis. We look forward to working with you to advance this crucial legislation.

Thank you,

Athena Poppas, MD, FACC
President

President
Athena Poppas, MD, FACC
Vice President
Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC
Immediate Past President
Richard J. Kovacs, MD, MACC

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Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC
Andrew P. Miller, MD, FACC
Daniel Jose Piñeiro, MD, FACC

Interim Chief Executive Officer
Cathleen C. Gates

The mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.