



## Ascension

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

May 12, 2020

Dear Representatives Schneider, Cole, Finkenauer, and Bacon:

On behalf of Ascension, I write to you to offer our strong support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, and to thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. This legislation represents a positive step forward in our efforts to retain talented health care workers at a time when the country needs them the most. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of a robust, deep and flexible medical workforce, and Congress should continue to work to bolster and reinforce the work that our heroic physicians and nurses do.

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the U.S., Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2019, Ascension provided \$2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes approximately 150,000 associates and 40,000 aligned providers. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 150 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 20 states and the District of Columbia. In Illinois, our presence includes AMITA Health, a joint operating company formed by Ascension and AdventHealth. AMITA Health is the largest health system in Illinois with 19 hospitals and more than 230 sites of care. In Oklahoma, Ascension St. John operates six hospitals and over 100 clinics in northeast Oklahoma, employing more than 6500 associates, 600 physicians and 1500 nurses.

Your legislation is timely and critical. Ascension employs many foreign-born physicians and nurses in Illinois, Oklahoma, and across the country who have not been able to complete applications for permanent residency because their priority dates are not current. This legislation would create more opportunities for them and their peers to receive permanent legal status as they risk their health every day to fight this pandemic and keep Americans safe.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation, for your leadership on this issue, and for your consideration of the proposals outlined here. If you have any questions, or if there is any additional support we can provide, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Hayes, Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy for Ascension, at 202-898-4683 or [mark.hayes@ascension.org](mailto:mark.hayes@ascension.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Impicciche', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joseph R. Impicciche  
President and Chief Executive Officer