



May 12, 2020

The Honorable Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the more than 25,000 physician members of the Florida Medical Association, I write to share our support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (the “Act”).

The bi-partisan Act, introduced by Senators Perdue (R-GA), Young (R-IN), Durbin (D-IL), and Coons (D-DE), will help ensure that the thousands of foreign-born nurses and doctors overseas who want to practice in the United States are given the opportunity to do so. The Act will authorize the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to recapture up to 25,000 immigrant visas for nurses and 15,000 immigrant visas for physicians. The Act would also allow USCIS to recapture immigrant visas for the families of these medical professionals. It is important to note that the Act would not create more visas; rather, it would simply reallocate a limited number of unused visas from prior years for doctors and nurses now. The Act also puts many safeguards in place. In order for employers to hire individuals with these visas, they must attest that the health care worker they are hiring who receives one of the visas will not displace an American worker. The Act also ensures that these medical professionals meet high standards of equivalent education, state licensure, English fluency, and must have clean disciplinary records.

One-sixth of our nation’s health care work force is foreign-born. There is no doubt that foreign-born health care workers are vital to our country’s health care systems, especially while we fight a pandemic. We urge you to support the Act as the heightened demand for physicians will only continue to grow and addressing the shortage in the health care workforce is imperative. We hope to work with you to advance this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald F. Giffler, MD
President, Florida Medical Association

