



May 11, 2020

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of the over 850 members of the Illinois Rural Health Association, I am contacting you to urge your support of the **Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act**, currently in the form of **S3599/HR6788**.

With the vast majority of counties outside of the Chicago area deemed medically underserved and low-income by the federal government, there is a critical shortage of physicians and nurses throughout Illinois, primarily in rural areas. This situation has only been made worse by the COVID 19 pandemic and there is a dire need for foreign-born physicians to be able to continue to work in the United States and foreign-trained nurses to be able to enter the United States to provide care.

A targeted allocation of recaptured visas to these health care professionals will have a huge impact on the ability to care for COVID-10 patients, as well as a long term impact on the health of the residents in many underserved areas.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information. Thank you so much for any support you can provide the **Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S3599/HR6788)** which is so desperately needed in these perilous times.

Warm Regards,

Margaret Vaughn, Executive Director
Illinois Rural Health Association