



May 15, 2020

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD  
United States House of Representatives  
312 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Estes  
United States House of Representatives  
1524 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Watkins  
United States House of Representatives  
1205 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Sharice Davids  
United States House of Representatives  
1541 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Re: The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, H.R. 6788

Dear Representatives Marshall, Estes, Watkins and Davids:

The Kansas Medical Society is writing you to express our support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 6788) and to urge you to support this measure. Before the COVID-19 pandemic added its considerable burden to the American health care system, our country was already facing a growing shortage of physicians. The pandemic just exacerbated that problem, forcing many states to recall retired physicians to help their colleagues on the frontline of the COVID response. Fortunately, due to a somewhat lower incidence of the disease thus far, the Kansas health care system has for the most part had the capacity to respond appropriately to the demonstrated need, but with public health officials predicting a spike in infections this fall, the system could experience the workforce challenges many other states have been facing.

The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will allow the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services (USCIS) to "recapture" up to 15,000 unused immigrant visas from prior years and allocate them to international medical graduates (IMGs) who are eligible to practice in our country or who are already here on a temporary work visa. Kansas has long benefitted from the contributions of IMG physicians to provide high quality medical care to the citizens of our state, including in some of the most underserved areas and populations. In particular, this group of physicians can be a very important component of our state's ability to continue to respond to the COVID-19 challenge.

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IMGs are a valuable healthcare resource, both nationally and in our state. The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act is a commonsense approach that can help alleviate our country's physician shortage, both for near-term challenges such as COVID-19, as well as for the longer term needs of our communities. We urge you to support the inclusion of this legislation in any additional COVID-19 stimulus package that the Congress considers. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Rachelle Colombo  
Executive Director