



# MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA®

May 11, 2020

Senator Doug Jones  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jones,

On behalf of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, I am writing to request your support of S. 3599, known as the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. The legislation is a bipartisan proposal from Sen. Perdue, Sen. Durbin, Sen. Young, and Sen. Coons, that will address the shortage of physicians and nurses during the nation's COVID-19 pandemic and will enhance the healthcare workforce.

Specifically, the bill authorizes the recapturing of 15,000 unused immigrant visas for physicians as well as 25,000 visas for nurses. The bill further allows for the issuing of visas for the immediate families of these physicians and nurses and not have those visas count toward the 40,000 limit.

The Medical Association believes that the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act would help ensure that the nation has enough physicians and nurses to care for the public during the COVID-19 crisis. This is particularly important to Alabama which ranks near the bottom of states with the number of primary care physicians per capita.

The Alabama healthcare workforce relies upon health professionals from other countries to provide high-quality patient care. During this pandemic, it is more critical than ever to ensure that patients have access to these providers without limitations that the current J-1, H-1B, and O-1, visa programs impose. Consequently, we believe that the passage of S. 3599 will go a long way towards solving this problem.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

John S. Meigs MD  
President

Aruna Arora MD  
President-Elect