



**Mercy Hospital
Administration**

7301 Rogers Ave.
Fort Smith, AR 72903
phone 479-314-6000
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May 15, 2020

The Honorable Senator John Boozman
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

We are reaching out to about Senate bills 948 and 3599. These initiatives will be helpful to Mercy in physician recruiting as well as in maintaining and expanding access to hard to find subspecialty services. S. 948 expands the Conrad-30 visa program administered through the State of Arkansas. Conrad-30 is the current source of a number of invaluable physicians practicing in Fort Smith. Bipartisan S. 3599 reallocates unused medical visas before their authorizations expire.

We support your appropriate and humane stance on immigration reform and border security. We do not believe that either of these bills are in conflict with your well stated positions.

Thank you for your continuing support of Mercy and the help we always receive from your terrific staff in Fort Smith and Lowell. Stay safe and well.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Gehrig".

Ryan Gehrig, President
Mercy Hospital Fort Smith Communities

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David W. Hunton, MD".

David W. Hunton, MD, President
Mercy Clinic Fort Smith Communities



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May 15, 2020

The Honorable Tom Cotton
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

We are reaching out to you about Senate bills 948 and 3599. These initiatives will be helpful to Mercy in maintaining and expanding access to hard to find subspecialty services. S. 948 expands the Conrad-30 visa program administered through the State of Arkansas. Conrad-30 is the current source of a number of invaluable physicians practicing in Fort Smith. Bipartisan S. 3599 reallocates unused medical visas before their authorizations expire.

We appreciate and respect your May 7th letter to President Trump. We do not believe that either of these bills are in conflict with the specific intent of your well stated positions. Thus we wanted you to know the current Conrad-30 program is a very effective national policy in the availability of medical services in Fort Smith and across our state.

Thank you for your continuing support of Mercy as well as the help of Chris Hoover and the fine team in Springdale. Stay safe and well.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Gehrig".

Ryan Gehrig, President
Mercy Hospital Fort Smith Communities

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David W. Hunton, MD, President
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