



May 14, 2020

Representative Kurt Schrader
530 Center St. NE, Suite 415
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Schrader:

We are writing this letter in support of doctors serving the communities of rural Southwest Oregon. We have been experiencing an incredible shortage of physicians in Oregon, particularly in the rural areas. Due to the growing geriatric population and rising numbers of retiring physicians from the baby boomer generation, there is a significant deficit of physicians and projected worsening of patient to physician ratio.

US trained, Board Certified physicians from other countries have been filling these positions of shortages and helping us run vital services in hospitals and clinics and provide specialty services to the much needed. Many of them have created deep roots in the community and have been serving our communities for many years. These physicians are highly qualified after being trained in our own institutions as residents and fellows. Like any other physicians, they deliver the highest quality of care with love and affection to our communities in Oregon.

Unfortunately, there is a sense of uncertainty amongst this group of physicians due to prolonged wait for their permanent residence status. Some of them have been in this country waiting for more than 10 years to file an adjustment of status due to the long wait times with many restrictions to their work. To improve the healthcare access to these communities, we propose to give maximum flexibility to these physicians, to enhance their skill and capacity in taking care of the patients which they are trained to do with no restrictions.

Physician recruitment and retention in rural communities is an ongoing concern. Physician National Interest Waiver Program which helps the doctors to be retained in the rural communities has been a great resource to fill the shortage in rural areas. Shortages that lead to increased wait times, reduced physician contact, and an overall reduction in the quality of care patients received.

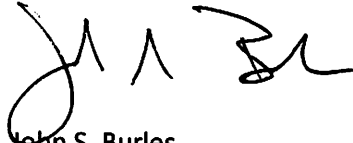
The restrictions are very many, from filing for extensions of visa, driver license renewal, and Medical license renewal to name a few make it difficult for the physicians to concentrate on the patients and also a strain for the health care system.

We are excited about the S.948/HR 2895 Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act Bill, which increases the number of physicians per state per year from 30 to 35 and exponentially after that to meet the needs of the state and provides incentives to physicians serving in communities like ours.

We request you to do the needful to help us achieve the goal to give better health care access to residents of Southwest Oregon by paving the path towards permanent residency to these physicians.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. S. Burles', with a large loop at the beginning and a stylized end.

John S. Burles
Chief Executive Officer
North Bend Medical Center



May 14, 2020

Representative Peter DeFazio
125 Central Avenue, Suite 350
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Dear Representative Defazio:

We are writing this letter in support of doctors serving the communities of rural Southwest Oregon. We have been experiencing an incredible shortage of physicians in Oregon, particularly in the rural areas. Due to the growing geriatric population and rising numbers of retiring physicians from the baby boomer generation, there is a significant deficit of physicians and projected worsening of patient to physician ratio.

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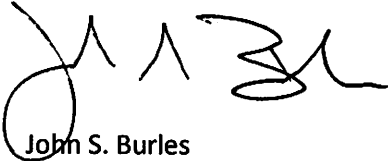
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John S. Burles
Chief Executive Officer
North Bend Medical Center



May 14, 2020

Representative Earl Blumenauer
911 NE 11th Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Representative Blumenauer:

We are writing this letter in support of doctors serving the communities of rural Southwest Oregon. We have been experiencing an incredible shortage of physicians in Oregon, particularly in the rural areas. Due to the growing geriatric population and rising numbers of retiring physicians from the baby boomer generation, there is a significant deficit of physicians and projected worsening of patient to physician ratio.

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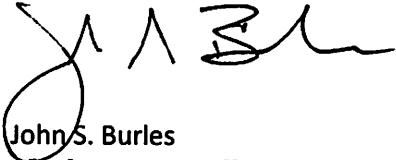
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John S. Burles
Chief Executive Officer
North Bend Medical Center



May 14, 2020

Representative Greg Walden
14 N. Central Avenue, Suite 112
Medford, OR 97501

Dear Representative Walden:

We are writing this letter in support of doctors serving the communities of rural Southwest Oregon. We have been experiencing an incredible shortage of physicians in Oregon, particularly in the rural areas. Due to the growing geriatric population and rising numbers of retiring physicians from the baby boomer generation, there is a significant deficit of physicians and projected worsening of patient to physician ratio.

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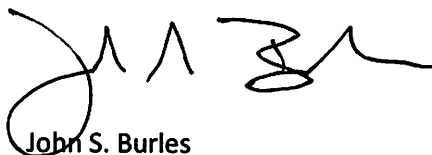
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John S. Burles
Chief Executive Officer
North Bend Medical Center



May 14, 2020

Representative Suzanne Bonamici
12725 SW Millikan Way, Suite 220
Beaverton, OR 97005

Dear Representative Bonamici:

We are writing this letter in support of doctors serving the communities of rural Southwest Oregon. We have been experiencing an incredible shortage of physicians in Oregon, particularly in the rural areas. Due to the growing geriatric population and rising numbers of retiring physicians from the baby boomer generation, there is a significant deficit of physicians and projected worsening of patient to physician ratio.

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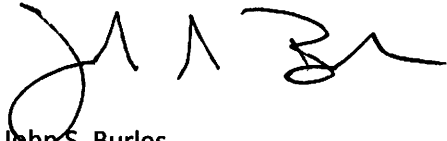
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John S. Burles
Chief Executive Officer
North Bend Medical Center



May 14, 2020

Senator Jeff Merkley
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1400
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Merkley:

We are writing this letter in support of doctors serving the communities of rural Southwest Oregon. We have been experiencing an incredible shortage of physicians in Oregon, particularly in the rural areas. Due to the growing geriatric population and rising numbers of retiring physicians from the baby boomer generation, there is a significant deficit of physicians and projected worsening of patient to physician ratio.

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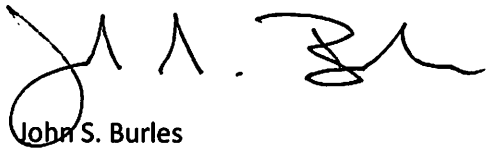
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John S. Burles
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May 14, 2020

Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

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