

May 11, 2020

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The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Purdue, Durbin, Young, Coons, Cornyn, and Leahy;

The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM), representing the nation's hospitalists, is pleased to support The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S. 3599). This bipartisan legislation will recapture 40,000 unused employment-based visas and using them to expedite processing for immigrant doctors and nurses. This will fill health care staffing shortages and ensure patients across the country have access to high quality medical care.

Hospitalists are front-line clinicians in America's acute care hospitals and focus on the general medical care of hospitalized patients. As a result, our members are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic caring for patients each day. Numerous hospitalists are highly trained immigrant physicians, many of whom are prevented from going where their expertise is needed most because of green card and visa backlogs.

In light of COVID-19, we must utilize all tools necessary to expand the healthcare provider workforce. This legislation will ensure visas for medical workers are processed in a timely manner, alleviate some of the green card backlog for physicians and nurses, and ultimately increase the numbers of our available healthcare workforce. Importantly, this legislation will also protect families by allowing spouses and children to join healthcare workers in the United States.



As the United States continues to face unprecedented challenges in facing COVID-19, this legislation will help alleviate a significant barrier that hospitalists face in fully engaging the fight against COVID-19. SHM is pleased to offer our support of S. 3599 and stands ready to support its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Scheurer MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Danielle Scheurer, MD, MSCR, SFHM
President
Society of Hospital Medicine