



Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Inc.
www.arh.org

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator (R-WV)
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
U.S. Senator (D-WV)
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear U.S. Senators:

I am writing this letter to express my support of two health care bills that should be included in the next COVID Relief Package: S.948/HR.2895 and S:3599/HR.6788. As Community CEO of Beckley ARH Hospital, a facility of Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Inc., I believe these bills are important to increase healthcare access to rural parts of West Virginia that constantly endure poor health care access, and also ease the process for physicians operating under immigrant visa status and retain them in West Virginia.

S.948/HR.2895 – Conrad 30 Reauthorization and Physician Access Bill

Many physicians in southern West Virginia, including several on staff at our hospital, are authorized to serve patients in our area under the J1 Visa Program. Currently reauthorization is required every one to two years. Under this Conrad 30 Bill, authorization would be permanent. The passing of this bill would eliminate some of the stress involved with physician recruitment.

S.3599/HR.6788 – Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (HWRA)

Upon review of this bill, it addresses the need to increase the current health care workforce and provide immigrant visas to physicians who are serving in underserved areas, where they get stuck due to backlog from per-country visa caps.

The above bills are supported by various national medical organizations of which our physicians are members. We need to show support of the medical staff and the patients they serve by getting these bills included in the COVID Relief Package. Thank you for your support of these bills.

Sincerely,

Rocco K. Massey
Community CEO

Copy: *Congresswoman Carol Miller*
307 Prince Street
Beckley, WV 25801

RKM/rk