



113 Madison Street, P. O. Box 1028  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
800-869-6762 \* Fax 573-636-8552

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Senator Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Senator Joshua Hawley  
The Honorable Representative Ann Wagner  
The Honorable Representative Emanuel Cleaver II  
The Honorable Representative Billy Long  
The Honorable Representative Jason Smith  
The Honorable Representative Lacy Clay, Jr.  
The Honorable Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer  
The Honorable Representative Sam Graves  
The Honorable Representative Vicky Hartzler

Delivered via email

Re: Support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Missouri Congressional delegation,

On behalf of the Missouri State Medical Association, 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 and co-sponsored by Sen. Blunt, 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 Missouri State Medical Association believes that the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will help ensure that the nation has enough physicians and nurses to care for the public during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. This is particularly important to Missouri which ranks third in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) behind California and Texas.

The Missouri 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Hruza". The signature is written in a cursive style.

George J. Hruza, MD MBA FAAD  
President