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May 21, 2020

Congressman Brendan Boyle
1133 Longworth Office Building
Washington DC 20515

RE: Support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Representative Boyle:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED), I am writing to voice our strong support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act and to urge the House of Representatives to quickly pass the legislation.

The legislation is a bipartisan proposal from Sen. Perdue, Sen. Durbin, Sen. Young, and Sen. Coons, 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 limits.

PAMED believes that the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act would help ensure that the nation has enough physicians and nurses to care for the public during the COVID-19 crisis. The Pennsylvania 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 cursive script that reads "Lawrence R. John, M.D.".

Lawrence John, MD
President