

May 29, 2020

Senator Ted Cruz
300 E. 8th Street, Suite 961
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Support for S.3599 “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” and S.948 “Conrad 30 Program and Physician Access Reauthorization Act”

Dear Senator Ted Cruz:

Please accept this letter as University Medicine Associates’ strong endorsement of S.3599 “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” and S.948 “Conrad 30 Program and Physician Access Reauthorization Act” in support of International Medical Graduate (IMG) doctors serving the communities of Bexar County and beyond. University Medicine Associates (UMA) is a mission-driven, non-profit, primary care and multi-specialty group associated with University Health System. UMA offers more than fifteen different types of services in over twenty locations across Bexar County. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. was already facing a serious shortage of physicians largely due to the growth and aging of the population and the impending retirements of many physicians. The COVID-10 pandemic created a heightened demand for physicians that will only continue to grow, and soon will outpace supply, leading to a projected shortfall of nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032.

The J1 Waiver and National Interest Waiver Programs have been a great resource to fill the shortages in underserved areas. U.S. trained, board-certified physicians who are citizens of other countries have been vital to our mission of providing high-quality, primary care and specialty services to the community. Many of them have created deep roots in their neighborhoods and communities and have been serving our patients for a great number of years.

During these uncertain times, there is a looming sense of distress amongst this group of physicians due to prolonged wait times to receive permanent residency status. Some of them have been practicing in the United States for more than 10 years awaiting approval from the USCIS to file an adjustment of status. The restrictions and costly obstacles IMG physicians experience during the waiting period are many. Challenges include continuous filings for extensions of work visas, delayed driver’s license and Texas Medical License renewals and extensive time away from practice for travel to U.S. Embassies. These challenges are disruptive to patient care and result in potential negative health outcomes. To

improve the healthcare access to the community, it is critical that we give these U.S. trained physicians maximum ability and support to care for patients with no restrictions.

We are confident that Senate Bill S.3599 “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” and S.948 “Conrad 30 Program and Physician Access Reauthorization Act” will provide much needed resolution and urge the Senate to quickly pass the legislation. Your leadership in this effort would greatly enable our dedicated IMG physicians to have the support they need and our patients, the care they deserve.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 210-358-3401, or Andrew Smith, University Health System’s Director of Government Relations, at 210-358-4200, if we may answer any questions or provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,



Monika Kapur, MD, MBA
President/Chief Executive Officer
University Medicine Associates

May 29, 2020

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S.3599 “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” and S.948 “Conrad 30 Program and Physician Access Reauthorization Act”

Dear Senator John Cornyn:

Please accept this letter as University Medicine Associates’ strong endorsement of S.3599 “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” and S.948 “Conrad 30 Program and Physician Access Reauthorization Act” in support of International Medical Graduate (IMG) doctors serving the communities of Bexar County and beyond. University Medicine Associates (UMA) is a mission-driven, non-profit, primary care and multi-specialty group associated with University Health System. UMA offers more than fifteen different types of services in over twenty locations across Bexar County. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. was already facing a serious shortage of physicians largely due to the growth and aging of the population and the impending retirements of many physicians. The COVID-10 pandemic created a heightened demand for physicians that will only continue to grow, and soon will outpace supply, leading to a projected shortfall of nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032.

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Sincerely,



Monika Kapur, MD, MBA
President/Chief Executive Officer
University Medicine Associates

May 29, 2020

Congressman Joaquin Castro
HR, Texas' 20th Congressional District (D TX-20)
2241 Rayburn House
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R.6788 "Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act" and H.R.2895 -
"Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act"

Dear Congressman Joaquin Castro:

Please accept this letter as University Medicine Associates' strong endorsement of H.R.6788 "Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act" and H.R.2895 "Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act" in support of International Medical Graduate (IMG) doctors serving the communities of Bexar County and beyond. University Medicine Associates (UMA) is a mission-driven, non-profit, primary care and multi-specialty group associated with University Health System. UMA offers more than fifteen different types of services in over twenty locations across Bexar County. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. was already facing a serious shortage of physicians largely due to the growth and aging of the population and the impending retirements of many physicians. The COVID-10 pandemic created a heightened demand for physicians that will only continue to grow, and soon will outpace supply, leading to a projected shortfall of nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032.

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During these uncertain times, there is a looming sense of distress amongst this group of physicians due to prolonged wait times to receive permanent residency status. Some of them have been practicing in the United States for more than 10 years awaiting approval from the USCIS to file an adjustment of status. The restrictions and costly obstacles IMG physicians experience during the waiting period are many. Challenges include continuous filings for extensions of work visas, delayed driver's license and Texas Medical License renewals and extensive

time away from practice for travel to U.S. Embassies. These challenges are disruptive to patient care and result in potential negative health outcomes. To improve the healthcare access to the community, it is critical that we give these U.S. trained physicians maximum ability and support to care for patients with no restrictions.

We are confident that House Bill H.R. 6788 “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” and H.R.2895 “Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act” will provide much needed resolution and urge the Senate and House of Representatives to quickly pass the legislation. Your leadership in this effort would greatly enable our dedicated IMG physicians to have the support they need and our patients, the care they deserve.

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