



WYOMING
MEDICAL
SOCIETY



The Honorable John Barrasso, MD
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
United States Senate
379A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Enzi and Barrasso:

On behalf of the nearly 1,200 physician and PA Wyoming Medical Society (WMS) members and 32 member facilities of the Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA), we are writing to express our strong collective support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

Wyoming has long recognized the critical role foreign-born physicians and foreign-trained nurses provide in caring for our citizens. The current pandemic has dramatically underscored our dependence on all of our healthcare professionals in ensuring the health of our communities. As you know, foreign-born physicians and foreign-trained nurses are required to meet rigid standards of equivalent education, English fluency, and state licensure, not to mention clean disciplinary records. This bi-partisan legislation sponsored by your colleagues Senators Coons, Durbin, Perdue and Young targets foreign born physicians and nurses with immigrant visas already working in the United States so they will not displace any domestic physicians with this change.

A troubling workforce shortage has existed in our industry within the state for many years. Unfortunately, COVID-19 and recent state economic forecasts may prove to exacerbate the problem. Currently in Wyoming 18 counties are designated as a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). Our organizations are eager to support policies, such as this, which aim to mitigate our workforce challenges.

A targeted allocation of recaptured visas to these healthcare professionals will have a tremendous impact on the ability to care for patients with COVID-19, and it will have a lasting impact on the overall health of our communities. Those foreign-born physicians assisted by this legislation will gain flexibility in work assignment and be better able to lend their skills where they are most needed.

The leadership and members of the WMS and WHA thank you for understanding the critical role these physicians and nurses play in Wyoming healthcare delivery and would appreciate your support in seeing this bill to successful passage. The need for additional healthcare providers and the flexibility for our currently working physician workforce is urgent and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bush
Executive Director
Wyoming Medical Society

Eric Boley
President
Wyoming Hospital Association