



June 22, 2020

Dr. Rand Paul  
167 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S948/H.R 2895 and S3599/HR 6788

Dear Dr. Paul:

Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) is a 13-Hospital integrated healthcare system. We proudly serve southeastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia. Ten of our hospitals are located in Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) or Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Our communities are rural and experience poverty at a higher rate than the rest of the United States. Our patients often lack the financial resources and access to transportation required to travel long distances. ARH saw a need to provide these individuals with accessible, quality healthcare in their own communities. We have accomplished this through providing these patients with primary care services and specialty services in their own backyards.

ARH is also dedicated to supporting our local economies. We employ more than 6,000 individuals throughout our service area. We are the largest employer in southeastern Kentucky and the third largest employer in southern West Virginia. Forbes Magazine recently recognized us as one of Kentucky's Top Ten Employers, based on employee satisfaction surveys.

Our mission statement is "To improve health and promote well-being of all people in Central Appalachia in partnership with our communities." We strive daily to live our mission statement, but this is impossible without our immigrant physicians. This is why we would like to express our support for S948/H.R 2895 and S3599/HR 6788.

Throughout our system, we currently employ 15 physicians on non-immigrant work visas. Of those physicians, 11 of them benefited from the Conrad 30 program. These physicians are pediatricians, cardiologists, oncologists, pulmonologist, nephrologists and more. As required by the Department of Labor, we work tirelessly to fill these positions with American physician. However, due to our location, we struggle with the recruitment of American physicians. Many physicians do not want to relocate their families to rural communities, especially if they've trained in a metropolitan area. Our immigrant do not displace the American workforce. They fill vacancies that Americans chose to ignore. Several of our service lines would not exist without immigrant physicians. For example, we have 11 oncologists across our system. Of those 11 oncologists, 10 are or have been on a H1B visa. Our patient population is significantly impacted by cancer. Without these physicians, some of our patients would be forced to travel 2-3 hours to

receive treatment. Many of our patients wouldn't have resources make these trips. Therefore they would forego cancer treatment. No individual should be denied healthcare simply because of their inability to access healthcare. ARH and our immigrant physicians ensure our vulnerable patients aren't faced with this difficult dilemma.

This is why we support the aforementioned bills. Without our immigrant physicians, our mission would be unattainable. These physicians are vital to the success of ARH and the wellbeing of our communities. They have served our communities through the COVID-19 pandemic without question or hesitation. We appreciate our physicians and support anything that benefits them. Therefore, we fully support the passing of S948/H.R 2895 and S3599/HR 6788.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Grossman  
President & CEO



June 22, 2020

Congressman Hal Rogers  
2406 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S948/H.R 2895 and S3599/HR 6788

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