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June 30, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider
United States House of Representatives
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
United States House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
United States House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Cole, Finkenauer, and Bacon,

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is the world's largest neurology specialty society representing more than 36,000 neurologists and clinical neuroscience professionals. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. We are proud to support the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 6788) a bill that would reallocate 15,000 visas for foreign-born physicians and 25,000 visas for foreign-born nurses to practice in the United States.

The current pandemic reveals how vulnerable our health care workforce is to shortages. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we ensure our nation's health care workforce can meet the needs of the American people. The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act would provide much-needed stability to foreign-born physicians already practicing in the United States, who are stymied by the green card backlog due to per country caps. According to one AAN member from India who has worked in an underserved area of Tennessee, based on "current wait times, it may take several decades for me to get a green card. Due to my visa status, me and my family face significant uncertainties regarding work and life in America."

These qualified health professionals, including neurologists, will help fill shortages as our nation's health systems continue their "all hands-on deck" response to COVID-19. In addition, these highly trained medical professionals will provide life-saving care in many of our nation's underserved communities.

The AAN thanks you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to working with you to advance the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. If you have any questions, please contact Derek Brandt, Director, Congressional Affairs at dbrandt@aan.com or Michael Lisowski, Congressional Affairs Manager, at mlisowski@aan.com.

Sincerely,

James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology