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June 30, 2020

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
S-321, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Perdue, Durbin, Young, Coons, Cornyn, and Leahy,

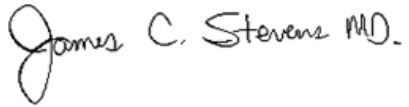
The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is the world's largest neurology specialty society representing more than 36,000 neurologists and clinical neuroscience professionals. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. We are proud to support the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S. 3599) 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Stevens MD." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

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