

Beaumont

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senator
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

On behalf of Beaumont Health, I am writing this letter in strong support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (HRWA) (S.3599/HR.6788) and the Conrad State 30 & Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S.948/HR.2895). I write to respectfully ask for your support of this legislation and urge the House of Representatives and the Senate to ensure quick passage.

Beaumont Health is Michigan's largest not-for-profit healthcare system with eight hospitals, 167 outpatient locations, nearly 5,000 physicians and 38,000 employees. Beaumont's commitment to patient and family-centered care contributes to the health and well-being of residents throughout the community and beyond.

The communities we serve have been hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March, Beaumont Health has treated and tested the most COVID-19 patients in Michigan, nearly 51,000 individuals to date. While there is still much to learn from this pandemic, one thing is evidently clear: the pandemic has exacerbated the national healthcare provider shortage. Provider shortages across the country have been drawn into the spotlight during this pandemic when adequately staffing hospitals and care units has been a paramount struggle for health systems everywhere, including Beaumont.

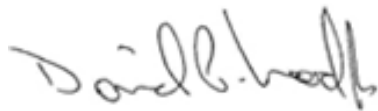
We believe the enactment of HRWA would serve a key role in addressing the shortage of healthcare providers and strengthen the healthcare workforce in Michigan and across the county. The HRWA would recapture up to 40,000 employment-based immigrant visas for healthcare providers, including up to 15,000 for physicians and 25,000 for nurses. The legislation would also expedite the visa authorization process which will rapidly help with the nation's provider shortage. The Conrad State 30 & Physician Access Reauthorization Act provides a more long-term solution to healthcare shortages and inequities by reauthorizing the J-1 visa waiver program for three additional year in addition to other enhancements that encourage the retention of physicians in medically underserved areas.

Beaumont Health values all of our healthcare heroes. It is our belief that if this legislation is passed, it would strengthen our workforce by helping to provide green cards to our healthcare providers, who without it, will need to wait another 10-15 years for their green card. Our heroes who are on the front-line of this pandemic fear deportation in the event they become sick for a prolonged period of time with COVID. We need action now to ensure these heroes and their families can stay in Michigan and continue to provide extraordinary care to our communities.

With the risk of a second COVID surge, this legislation will help Beaumont strengthen our healthcare workforce and remain prepared to serve our communities in their time of need. We urge Congress to pass these bills so

our healthcare heroes can continue to provide compassionate, extraordinary care every day to our patients and their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Wood, MD
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Beaumont Health