



July 14, 2020

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Subject: Senate Bill 3599 – The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Senator:

On behalf of CommonSpirit Health, I am writing to wholeheartedly support the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. There has never been a more urgent need for the care that foreign-born physicians and foreign-trained nurses provide than during the COVID-19 pandemic. As our country continues to experience increases in COVID-19 cases and hospital surges, the communities we serve, especially in rural areas and urban communities of color, would be well-served from this bi-partisan legislation.

CommonSpirit Health's commitment to serve the common good is delivered through the dedicated work of thousands of physicians, advanced practice clinicians, nurses, and staff; through clinical excellence delivered across a system of hospitals and other care centers covering 21 states, and accessible to nearly one in four U.S. residents; and through more than \$4 billion annually in charity care, community benefits, and government program services. Our healing mission and values—compassion, inclusion, integrity, excellence, collaboration—call for us to address disparities in health care and support meaningful solutions to address workforce shortages.

The Act would serve to strengthen our ability to deliver on our mission. It would authorize issuance of 40,000 immigrant visas, which were previously unused in other immigration categories, allocating 15,000 for physicians and 25,000 for nurses. Addressing the current visa backlog is an important and incremental step in resolving an ongoing immigration/healthcare issue. This legislation would help to not only meet current health care demands but also ensure that foreign-born physicians and foreign-trained nurses have the certainty and peace of mind needed to do their job. This Act would create more opportunities for these front line providers to receive permanent legal status as they risk their health every day to fight this pandemic and keep our country safe.

CommonSpirit Health urges your support of the important provisions outlined in the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act and hope for passage as either a stand-alone legislation or included within a robust COVID-19 relief legislation. Thank you for your leadership during these challenging times as we work with you to restore health and healing across our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lloyd H. Dean".

Lloyd Dean
CEO