



June 23, 2020

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

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

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

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

Re: The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S.3599/HR.6788) and the Conrad State 30 & Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S.948/HR.2895)

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of Henry Ford Health System (HFHS), I am writing this letter to voice our 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), and to urge the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass these pieces of legislation.

HFHS is a Michigan-based, not-for-profit corporation and one of the nation's largest, integrated health care systems, with over 31,600 employees, headquartered in Detroit, where we have been committed to improving the health and well-being of the community for over 100 years. Our mission is to improve people's lives through excellence in the science and art of health care and healing. With our headquarters in Detroit, one of the country's COVID-19 hot spots, our facilities and resources have been greatly stressed by the pandemic.

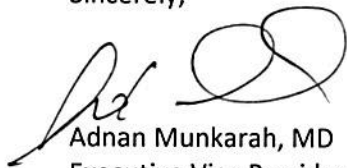
These Acts would help address the shortage of healthcare professionals and strengthen the healthcare workforce in Michigan and across the United States, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The HRWA would recapture up to 40,000 employment-based immigrant visas for healthcare professionals, including up to 15,000 for physicians and 25,000 for nurses, many of which are currently experiencing backlogs of up to 10 years to receive their green cards. This legislation would also expedite the visa authorization process to quickly address the nation's pressing shortage of healthcare workers. The Conrad State 30 & Physician Access Reauthorization Act would provide a more long-term solution to healthcare shortages and inequities across the country by reauthorizing the J-1 visa waiver program for an additional three years in addition to several other enhancements that would encourage the retention of physicians in medically underserved areas.

As part of HFHS, the Henry Ford Medical Group (HFMG) is one of the nation's largest and most experienced group practices; it comprises physicians and researchers from over 60 countries across the world. If passed, this legislation would strengthen HFHS' workforce by helping to provide green cards to our vast number of out-of-country healthcare professionals. With the risk of a potential future surge in COVID-19 cases, strengthening our healthcare workforce through this legislation will help us remain prepared to continue to adequately serve our communities.

Passage of these bills would help us strengthen not only our workforce, but the nation's, in both the short and long term as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a large, circular flourish.

Adnan Munkarah, MD  
Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer  
Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Patterson Chair, Gynecologic Cancer Research  
Henry Ford Health System