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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Senator Roy Blunt
The Honorable Senator Joshua Hawley
The Honorable Representative Ann Wagner
The Honorable Representative Emanuel Cleaver II
The Honorable Representative Billy Long
The Honorable Representative Jason Smith
The Honorable Representative Lacy Clay, Jr.
The Honorable Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer
The Honorable Representative Sam Graves
The Honorable Representative Vicky Hartzler

Delivered via email

Re: Support for the Physician Access Reauthorization Act

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Missouri Congressional delegation,

On behalf of the Missouri State Medical Association and physician members across the state, we are writing in support of legislation to increase access to care and promote the ability of International Medical Graduates to practice medicine in our communities. We urge your support for the Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S.948/H.R. 2895).

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are vital members of the U.S. physician community, providing quality care to patients – often in underserved communities and to vulnerable populations. More IMGs means that the U.S. can increase its response efforts and prepare for future demands that may be placed on our health care system.

We all know that the U.S. is facing a severe physician workforce shortage – current projections indicate that there will be a shortfall of nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032 – but some areas of our state and our country are particularly medically underserved. Missouri ranks third in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) behind California and Texas. The Physician Access Reauthorization Act would reauthorize the Conrad 30 Waiver Program, which enables resident physicians from other countries that are working in the U.S. on J-1 visas to remain in the U.S. if they agree to practice in a medically underserved area for three years. We urge you to support of these bills.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued efforts to maintain the health and well-being of our state's residents. If you have questions or if we can be of assistance to your office in any way, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mills
Executive Vice President