

McLeod Health

The Choice for Medical Excellence

July 23, 2020

Dear Representatives,

This correspondence serves as a recommendation on behalf of our healthcare system to request legislation which will support physicians and their practices during this national emergency caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. We would greatly appreciate your attention to the “HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE RESILIENCE ACT – bill number S.3599 “. This legislation is a bipartisan proposal that was introduced by Senator Perdue (R-GA), Senator Young (R-IN), Senator Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Coons (D-DE) . The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will quickly address our nation’s shortage of doctors and nurses, which poses a significant risk to our ability to effectively respond to the COVID – 19 crisis.

This bill will alleviate visa-based restrictions for US trained international physicians so that the white coat warriors can be deployed whenever and wherever they are needed to fight COVID 19 pandemic now and in the future. It is a onetime solution offered in light of pandemic. The bill authorizes the recapturing of 15,000 unused immigrant visas (Green Cards) for physicians and 25,000 visas for nurses and their families.

The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act has been endorsed by the organizations : American Medical Association (AMA), American Hospital Association (AHA), American Organization for Nursing Leadership, American College of Physicians (ACP), Physicians for American Healthcare Access (PAHA), American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), National Immigration Forum, Illinois Health and Hospital Association, Medical Association of Alabama and many more joining every day.

On behalf of thousands of US trained international physicians and nurses from all over US we request a letter of support for the HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE RESILIENCE ACT. This will increase the healthcare workforce tremendously in US in the fight against COVID 19 Pandemic and any future rebounds.

Many senators and congressmen across the county have already expressed their support and cosponsored the bill. This proposal would simply reallocate a limited number of unused visas from prior years for doctors and nurses who are qualified to help in our fight against COVID -19. This shortage is critical and needs immediate attention so that our healthcare facilities are not overwhelmed in this crisis.

Thank you for your attention and action to this important matter.



Rob Colones

President and CEO of McLeod Health