



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

2021 L Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036 **ph** 202.776.0544 **fax** 202.776.0545 **e-mail** ASH@hematology.org

June 10, 2020

2020

President

Stephanie Lee, MD, MPH
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1100 Fairview Avenue N, D5-290
PO Box 19024
Seattle, WA 98109
Phone 206-667-5160

President-Elect

Martin Tallman, MD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
1275 York Avenue
Howard Building 718
New York, NY 10065
Phone 212-639-3842

Vice President

Jane N. Winter, MD
Northwestern University
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
676 N. Saint Clair Street, Suite 850
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone 312-695-4538

Secretary

Robert Brodsky, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Ross Building, Room 1025
720 Rutland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone 410-502-2546

Treasurer

Mark Crowther, MD
McMaster University
50 Charlton Avenue East
Room L-301
Hamilton, ON L8N-4A6
Canada
Phone 1-905-521-6024

Councillors

Belinda Avalos, MD
John Byrd, MD
Cynthia Dunbar, MD
Arnold Ganser, MD
Agnes Lee, MD, MSC, FRCPC
Alison Loren, MD, MS
Bob Lowenberg, MD
Joseph Mikhael, MD, FRCPC, Med

Executive Director

Martha Liggett, Esq.

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Perdue, Young, Cornyn, Durbin, Coons, and Leahy:

On behalf of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), I write to you today to voice support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act and urge quick passage of this legislation. The legislation, which would allow the government to recapture 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas, would bolster the U.S. healthcare workforce, not only bringing relief to our current frontline providers but also helping to ensure that U.S. patients have the care they deserve.

The COVID-19 public health emergency highlighted the already dwindling healthcare workforce in the U.S. Throughout the crisis, certain areas of the country have had to recall retired physicians, expand physician practice areas, and modify out-of-state licensing laws. International Medical Graduates (IMGs) already play a vital role in the U.S. healthcare workforce – especially in medically-underserved areas of our country – and increasing the number of visas available to IMGs would help to address the ongoing shortage the U.S. is currently facing.

ASH joins many others in the physician community, including the American Medical Association, in supporting this important piece of legislation. As the U.S. continues to deal with the COVID-19 crisis, the time to act on this is now. ASH urges the Senate to pass the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. If the Society can ever serve as a resource, please reach out to Leslie Brady, ASH Policy and Practice Manager, at lbrady@hematology.org or 716-361-2764 (cell).

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. Lee, MD, MPH
President