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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 21, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 3599 – Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Senator Sinema,

On behalf of the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA), the largest physician-led organization in Arizona with nearly 4000 members and over 126 years of service, I urge your support for S. 3599, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. This bipartisan legislation is designed to address the shortage of physicians in the nation's healthcare workforce.

Specifically, S. 3599 would allow previously unused immigrant visas to be made available to physicians for up to 90 days following the declared national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Passage of this important legislation could clear the way for up to 15,000 additional physicians to practice in the United States.

International Medical Graduates have been playing a vital role in the U.S. healthcare system, including Arizona, for decades, often serving those in low-income communities and rural, underserved areas. Even prior to the pandemic, Arizona had a nationally recognized physician shortage problem. The demand for high quality physician care will only worsen in the coming years as population growth continues. Passage of legislation such as the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will provide much needed assistance in addressing this dilemma.

ArMA respectfully urges you to sponsor this important legislation to help Arizonans in underserved areas and populations improve their access to physicians. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

*Jon Amores*

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Director of Government Relations

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