



Robert "Bo" Ryall
President and CEO

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
326 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act – Support S. 3599

Dear Senator Cotton:

The Arkansas Hospital Association is a membership organization that proudly represents more than one hundred healthcare facilities and their more than 45,000 employees as they strive to care for all Arkansans who seek care. The Association works to support, safeguard, and assist our members in providing safe, high quality, patient-centered care in a rapidly evolving – and highly regulated – healthcare environment.

Across Arkansas, hospitals are the constant in our communities. Our facilities and care teams are the foundation of the healthcare system, and in fact, for many rural areas, hospitals are the sole available provider of care for all patients. As the backbone of the Arkansas healthcare system, it is crucial that hospitals are staffed appropriately to ensure that they provide services that a community needs – emergency care, inpatient care, and outpatient services.

Foreign-born physicians and foreign-trained nurses play a critical role in Arkansas's healthcare delivery system. During our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more apparent that as the demand for front line healthcare professionals continues to grow, the ability to recapture 15,000 unused immigrant visas for physicians as well as 25,000 visas for nurses will be instrumental to ensuring that Arkansans continue to receive high-quality, accessible patient care.

Please support S. 3599. As our Arkansas hospitals continue to respond to COVID-19, additional healthcare providers and flexibility for our currently working physician workforce are urgent needs that this legislation can help address.

We thank you for your time and attention to this matter and thank you for your continued support of our Arkansas hospitals and the heroes who make them great.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bo Ryall".

Bo Ryall
President & CEO
Arkansas Hospital Association

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