



MISSION: Baptist Health demonstrates the love of Christ by providing and coordinating care and improving health in our communities.

VISION: Baptist Health will lead the transformation to healthier communities.

FAITH-BASED VALUES: Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Excellence, Collaboration and Joy.

COMMITMENT TO PATIENT SAFETY: Continuously improving patient outcomes by creating a highly reliable organization focused on a culture of safety, process excellence and zero patient harm.

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader:

On behalf of the Baptist Health Physicians Cabinet representing 1,300+ medical providers across Baptist Health, the largest not-for-profit healthcare system in Kentucky spanning eight owned hospitals and one managed hospital and 250+ outpatient facilities, we would like to voice our support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S.3599).

As you are aware, S.3599 is a bipartisan effort to address the shortage of physicians and nurses and augment the nation's healthcare workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas. Kentucky has been experiencing a shortage of physicians for years and the situation in our more rural areas is stark. Especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our hospitals and facilities desperately need these healthcare professionals who provide high-quality, life-saving care. Right now, these doctors and nurses stand to be deported from the US if they lose employment in case of disability by contracting COVID-19 while taking care of their patients. We need these healthcare providers to feel secure in their positions and have the flexibility to go where they are needed the most to address the current health crisis and beyond. In our experience, the visa process has a wait time for several of our physicians of over 100 years, without exaggeration.

The Baptist Health Physicians Cabinet fully endorses the goals of S.3599 and respectfully requests your support of the legislation. We appreciate your understanding of the critical role these healthcare professionals play in our communities. We stand ready to serve as a resource for you and your staff on this issue and any policy that advances the health and welfare of Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isaac J. Myers II".

Isaac J. Myers II, MD
Chief Health Integration Officer, Baptist Health
President, Baptist Health Medical Group

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Locken".

Peter Locken, MD
Chair, Baptist Health Physician Cabinet