



Nebraska Medical Association

Advocating for Physicians and the  
Health of all Nebraskans

August 17, 2020

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
454 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 3599 – Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Senator Fischer,

On behalf of the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA), the professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students, I write today to 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 for decades, often serving those in low-income communities and rural, underserved areas. Even prior to the pandemic, there was a need for additional physicians in Nebraska, and the demand for high quality physician care is only certain to grow in the coming years. Passage of legislation such as the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will provide needed assistance in addressing shortages in our communities.

The NMA respectfully urges you to join your colleague, Congressman Don Bacon, an original co-sponsor of the House version (HR 6788), in supporting this important legislation to increase access to physicians in underserved areas and populations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd E. Hlavaty, MD  
NMA President