



UTAH ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**STRONG MEDICINE FOR UTAH**

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Ben McAdams

130 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McAdams,

On behalf of the Utah Academy of Family Physicians (UAFP), which represents more than 1,200 family physicians, residents and medical students throughout the state, I write to share our organization's support of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 6788). This legislation is a good, incremental, step to address an immediate need presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family physicians are acutely aware of the current shortage of primary care physicians across the country and the important role International Medical Graduates (IMGs) play in addressing this shortage. Particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, the ability to recapture 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas from prior fiscal years would enable our U.S. physicians to have the support they need and our U.S. patients to have the care they deserve.

IMGs play a vital role in caring for some of the most vulnerable populations in the U.S. For example, foreign-trained physicians are more likely than U.S.-trained physicians to practice in lower-income and disadvantaged communities. As such, nearly 21 million Americans live in areas of the U.S. where foreign-trained physicians account for at least half of all physicians.

Furthermore, over the past 10 years, more than 10,000 IMGs practicing through J-1 visa waivers have worked in underserved communities. By increasing the number of visas available to IMGs these vulnerable populations will be better served and the overall health care system will be bolstered.

The UAFP also believes that Congress must reauthorize the broader, valuable Conrad 30 J-1 visa waiver program to help alleviate ongoing physician shortages and ensure the long-term health care needs of communities across our country are met. We are encouraged by the introduction of H.R. 6788 and urge Congress to also take action this year to reauthorize and improve the Conrad 30 program.

The Utah Academy of Family Physicians would greatly appreciate your support of HB6788, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isaac J. Noyes, MD

President

Utah Academy of Family Physicians