



**American Society for
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy**

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May 11, 2021

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The Honorable Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate
711 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
U.S. Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 201510

Dear Senators Durbin, Cornyn, Leahy, Young, Coons and Collins:

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) offers support of the “Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act” (S. 1024) and advocates for its swift passage.

According to data published by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the United States could experience an estimated shortage of between 54,100 and 139,000 physicians, including shortfalls in both primary and specialty care, by 2033. An aging population coupled with 2 in 5 physicians nearing the traditional retirement age will also have implications on whether the number of physicians will be adequate to meet future demand.

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) constitute roughly a quarter of the U.S. physician workforce. They have served on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic and have historically filled gaps in rural and medically underserved communities. The contributions of IMGs to health care delivery and to improving access to care for our most disadvantaged populations, must be recognized and supported, not overlooked. Your legislation is an important step toward bolstering our country’s physician workforce by recapturing up to 15,000 unused employment-based immigrant visas for physicians who are eligible to practice in the United States or who are already in the country on temporary work visas.

ASGE is grateful for your leadership to ensure our nation's health care workforce needs are met during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Should you require additional information, or if I can be of assistance to you on this or other health care-related matters, please contact Camille Bonta, ASGE policy consultant, at (202) 320-3658 or cbonta@summithealthconsulting.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Klaus Mergener', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Klaus Mergener, MD, PhD, MBA, FASGE
President
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy



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The Honorable Brad Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
300 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
U.S. House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Schneider, Cole, O'Halleran and Bacon:

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Klaus Mergener, MD, PhD, MBA, FASGE
President

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