

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Marco Rubio
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Rubio and Scott:

On behalf of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians (FAFP), representing over 6,000 family medicine physicians, residents, and medical students throughout Florida, we request your support for S. 1024/H.R.2255, a bill designed to enhance the United States' physician workforce during the COVID-19 crisis by recapturing unused immigrant visas. If passed, this legislation will serve rural communities and vulnerable populations in Florida by addressing primary care workforce shortages through the use of capable and willing International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

The Robert Graham Center projects a primary care physician shortage of almost 52,000 by the year 2025 with Florida alone having an estimated need of 4,671 primary care physicians by 2030. As you are well aware, Florida's need for healthcare services will be exacerbated by the ever increasing number of retirement age individuals moving to Florida each year to enjoy the warm weather and favorable economy, the latter of which you have both made possible during your time in public office. While efforts continue to enhance traditional forms of physician workforce development, particularly in the area of funding for graduate medical education and teaching health centers, it goes without question that S. 1024/H.R.2255 will help address the primary care workforce shortage need that exists.

The FAFP appreciates your consideration and support of this legislation and stands ready to assist you and your staff in any way to ensure accessibility to the highest quality primary care possible for the citizens of Florida. Please contact Mr. Jay Millson (jmillson@fafp.org) should you need any additional information or wish to discuss this issue any further.

Sincerely,



John Gross, MD, FAFAP
President



Christienne Alexander, MD, FAFAP
Board Chair

cc: Jay W. Millson, FAFP CEO/EVP