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May 7, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP), which represents 1900 family physicians and medical students in Iowa, I write to share our organization's support for your legislation, the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* (S. 1024).

Your legislation is a crucial step to address an immediate need presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Iowa is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the nation's largest primary care organization whose members provide care to more than 190 million patients annually. 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 physicians to have the support they need and our 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. IMGs make up more than 22 percent of active family physicians, and they are more likely to practice in rural, low socio-economic status, and non-white communities. In fact, IMGs are twice as likely to practice in health professional shortage areas. 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 IAFP applauds the introduction of the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* and stands ready to help this important piece of legislation be enacted.

Sincerely,

Lonny Miller, MD  
President  
Iowa Academy of Family Physicians

Brent Hoehns, MD  
Advocacy Committee Co-Chair  
Iowa Academy of Family Physicians

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May 7, 2021

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

On behalf of the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP), which represents 1900 family physicians and medical students in Iowa, I write to share our organization's support for your legislation, the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* (S. 1024).

Your legislation is a crucial step to address an immediate need presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Iowa is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the nation's largest primary care organization whose members provide care to more than 190 million patients annually. 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 physicians to have the support they need and our patients to have the care they deserve.

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