



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of our physician and medical student members, the Kentucky Medical Association is writing to voice support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S.1024).

The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act is bipartisan legislation from Sens. Durbin, Cornyn, Leahy, Young, Coons, and Collins designed to address the shortage of physicians and nurses and augment the nation's health care workforce. Specifically, the bill allows the recapture of 15,000 immigrant visas for physicians as well as 25,000 visas for nurses. The bill further authorizes visas to be issued for the immediate families of these physicians and nurses; however, these visas would not count toward the 40,000 limit.

The United States has been experiencing a shortage of physicians for years. Like other states, Kentucky's health care system depends heavily on International Medical Graduates (IMGs) to help fill a critical workforce need, especially in rural and other underserved areas. However, their value has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. IMGs are serving on the state's medical front lines and providing access to high-quality, life-saving care. Furthermore, in the wake of the pandemic, the ability to recapture 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas from prior fiscal years will prove invaluable as patients return to see their physicians for preventive care and delayed elective procedures. In short, an increase would help enable all physicians to have the support they need and all patients to have the care they deserve, now and beyond COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Padgett", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick T. Padgett
Executive Vice President
Kentucky Medical Association



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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