



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
30 East 33rd Street
New York, NY 10016
(800) 622-9010
info@kidney.org

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United State Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for S.1024, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) expresses our support for the Healthcare Workforce Resiliency Act (S. 1024).

In this era of physician shortages, many of America's 37 million adults impacted by kidney disease rely on the specialized care of international medical graduates. According to the American Society of Nephrology, international medical graduates make up a majority of the practicing nephrologists in America and are more likely to work in traditionally underserved and rural areas.

By allowing the recapture of up to 15,000 unused employment-based immigrant visas for physicians and up to 25,000 for professional nurses, the Healthcare Workforce Resiliency Act would increase the availability of international medical graduates to address the ongoing physician shortage that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our healthcare workforce is overburdened from fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, and the health disparities that have been only heightened as a result of the pandemic will not subside without an investment in additional healthcare professionals. These unused visas could go to skilled International Medical Graduates (IMG) who are ready now to relieve our exhausted healthcare professionals and expand healthcare access to underserved and rural communities.

The National Kidney Foundation is the leading organization in the U.S. dedicated to the awareness, prevention, and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and their families, and tens of millions of Americans at risk. We support bills that increase access to specialized nephrology care to our patients, especially those in underserved and rural areas. We ask you to move the Healthcare Workforce Resiliency Act through the legislative process and work to ensure that all kidney patients have access to the care professionals that they need.

If you have any questions on this or other NKF legislative priorities, please reach out to Lauren Drew (Lauren.Drew@kidney.org).

Sincerely,

Kevin Longino
CEO and transplant patient

Paul M. Palevsky, MD, FNKF
President



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May 5, 2021

Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Chair
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Jim Jordan, Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for H.R.2255 the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan:

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) expresses our support for the Healthcare Workforce Resiliency Act (H.R 2255).

In this era of physician shortages, many of America's 37 million adults impacted by kidney disease rely on the specialized care of international medical graduates. According to the American Society of Nephrology, international medical graduates make up a majority of the practicing nephrologists in America and are more likely to work in traditionally underserved and rural areas.

By allowing the recapture of up to 15,000 unused employment-based immigrant visas for physicians and up to 25,000 for professional nurses, the Healthcare Workforce Resiliency Act would increase the availability of international medical graduates to address the ongoing physician shortage that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our healthcare workforce is overburdened from fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, and the health disparities that have been only heightened as a result of the pandemic will not subside without an investment in additional healthcare professionals. These unused visas could go to skilled International Medical Graduates (IMG) who are ready now to relieve our exhausted healthcare professionals and expand healthcare access to underserved and rural communities.

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