



OHIO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Shaina Rood, Chagrin Falls

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator
200 N High St., #614
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the 5,300 family physician, family medicine resident and medical student members of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, I write to request your support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S. 1024/H.R.2255), legislation to strengthen the healthcare workforce with qualified physicians and nurses to help address the nation's healthcare workforce shortage, especially during the current pandemic. Our national organization, the American Academy of Family Physicians, also supports this legislation.

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 United States and in Ohio. 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 in Ohio will be better served and the overall health care system will be bolstered.

Thank you for your support of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

Sincerely,

Mike Sevilla, MD, FAAFP
President



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May 3, 2021

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U.S. Senator
37 W Broad St., #300
Columbus, OH 43215

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Thank you for your support of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

Sincerely,

Mike Sevilla, MD, FAAFP
President