

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2152

**Re: Support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act**

Dear Senator Durbin,

On behalf of BJC HealthCare (BJC), we would like to thank you for sponsoring S.1024 Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (the "Act").

As you know, BJC is one of the largest nonprofit health care organizations in the U.S. and focuses on delivering services to residents primarily in the greater St. Louis, southern Illinois, and southeast Missouri regions. Serving the health care needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities in Missouri and Illinois, BJC includes 14 hospitals and various physician offices, outpatient centers, long-term care facilities, and rehabilitation centers.

By providing more than \$785.9 million in financial assistance, education of health professionals, safety net services and community outreach programs in 2019, BJC is the largest provider of charity care, unreimbursed care, and community benefit in Missouri. Our flagship academic hospitals, Barnes-Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children's Hospital, provide medical education, training, and research that serves the global community.

BJC strongly supports the bipartisan Act to respond to the severe physician & nursing shortages. One-sixth of our health care workforce is foreign-born. Immigrant nurses and doctors play a vital role in our health care system, and their contributions are now more crucial than ever. A growing shortage of doctors and nurses in the U.S. over the past decade has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Adequately staffing hospitals and care units has been the paramount struggle for health systems during the pandemic.

We believe the passage of the Act would serve a key role in addressing the shortage of health care providers and strengthen the health care workforce in Illinois, Missouri, and across the country.

We stand ready to work with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Dunagan".

Clay Dunagan, MD  
Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer  
BJC HealthCare

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Murphy".

Denise Murphy, RN, BSN  
Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive  
BJC HealthCare



June 21, 2021

The Honorable Joshua Hawley  
115 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6154

**Re: Support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act**

Dear Senator Hawley,

On behalf of BJC HealthCare (BJC), we would like to urge you to support S.1024 Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (the "Act").

The bipartisan Act, introduced by Senators Durbin (D-IL), Cornyn (R-TX), Leahy (D-VT), Young (R-IN), Coons (D-DE), and Collins (R-ME), would allow United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to "recapture" up to 40,000 immigrant visas previously authorized by Congress that have not currently been used. The Act would respond to severe physician & nursing shortages by reserving 15,000 visas for foreign-born physicians and 25,000 visas for foreign-born nurses.

**It is important to note that the Act would not create more visas; rather, it would simply reallocate a limited number of unused visas from prior years for physicians and nurses now.**

The Act also puts many safeguards in place. The Act would not impact the employment or wages of current American healthcare workers. It requires their employers to provide a letter attesting that the hiring of a foreign national has not and will not displace a U.S. worker. To qualify, an I-140 immigrant petition must be filed within 90 days of the end of the national emergency declaration for COVID-19, which went into effect on March 1, 2020, and will be in effect throughout 2021.

As you know, BJC is one of the largest nonprofit health care organizations in the U.S. and focuses on delivering services to residents primarily in the greater St. Louis, southern Illinois, and southeast Missouri regions. Serving the health care needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities in Missouri and Illinois, BJC includes 14 hospitals and various physician offices, outpatient centers, long-term care facilities, and rehabilitation centers.

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BJC strongly supports the Act. It has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. We believe the passage of the Act would serve a key role in addressing the shortage of health care providers and strengthen the health care workforce in Missouri, Illinois, and across the country.

We stand ready to work with you to advance this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer  
BJC HealthCare

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Denise Murphy, RN, BSN  
Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive  
BJC HealthCare



June 21, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6536

**Re: Support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act**

Dear Congressman Long,

On behalf of BJC HealthCare (BJC), we would like to urge you to support H.R.2255 Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (the "Act").

Sponsored by Congressman Bradley Schneider and cosponsored by 31 additional Representatives, the bipartisan Act would allow United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to "recapture" up to 40,000 immigrant visas previously authorized by Congress that have not currently been used. The Act would respond to severe physician & nursing shortages by reserving 15,000 visas for foreign-born physicians and 25,000 visas for foreign-born nurses.

**It is important to note that the Act would not create more visas; rather, it would simply reallocate a limited number of unused visas from prior years for physicians and nurses now.**

The Act puts many safeguards in place. The Act would not impact the employment or wages of current American healthcare workers. It requires their employers to provide a letter attesting that the hiring of a foreign national has not and will not displace a U.S. worker. To qualify, an I-140 immigrant petition must be filed within 90 days of the end of the national emergency declaration for COVID-19, which went into effect on March 1, 2020, and will be in effect throughout 2021.

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BJC strongly supports the Act. It has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. We believe the passage of the Act would serve a key role in addressing the shortage of health care providers and strengthen the health care workforce in Missouri, Illinois, and across the country. We stand ready to work with you to advance this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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