



May 25, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

On behalf of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians, which represents over 4,400 family medicine physicians, residents, and medical students across the state of Michigan, I write to share our support and request your support for the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* (S. 1042).

The Robert Graham Center projects a primary care physician shortage of nearly 52,000 by the year 2025 with Michigan having a need for an estimated 875 physicians by 2030. Additionally, more than 56 percent of Michigan residents live in a health professional shortage area.

This legislation would help alleviate part of the primary care physician shortage across Michigan and the United States using capable and willing International Medical Graduates (IMGs) by recapturing 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas from prior fiscal years.

IMGs are vital in caring for some of the most vulnerable populations in the United States. IMGs are more likely to practice in rural, low socio-economic status, and non-white communities, and are twice as likely to practice in health professional shortage areas. 22 percent of active family physicians are IMGs. Passing this legislation to increase the number of visas available to IMGs, will better serve not only the vulnerable and underserved population, but it will help the overall healthcare system.

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians appreciates your consideration and encourages your support of the legislation. MAFP is available to assist you and your staff in any manner the increase quality and access to care for all residents of Michigan. If you have any further questions or need additional clarification, please contact MAFP Director of Government Relations, Matt Black, at mblack@mafpa.com or 517.664.9082.

Sincerely,

Karlene Ketola, MSA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians



May 25, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

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