

July 29, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Assistant Majority Leader
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

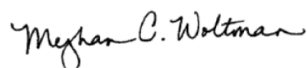
On behalf of Advocate Aurora Health (Advocate Aurora), I am writing to express our support for your legislation, the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* (S. 1024). We thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan bill, which seeks to help address our country's critical health care workforce shortage. We appreciate your recognition of the need to take prompt action to address the shortage of physicians and nurses – a shortage that has been exacerbated by COVID-19. We stand ready to help you and your colleagues in securing passage of this important and much-needed legislation.

As you may know, the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#) (AAMC) projects by 2034, the United States will face a shortage of primary care physicians of between 17,800 and 48,000. Of further concerns, AAMC predicts a shortage among non-primary care specialties of between 21,000 and 77,100 physicians. Moreover, from a 2018 article by the [American Journal of Medical Quality](#), it is forecasted that by 2030 there will be a shortage of 510,394 registered nurses. As an integrated health care system, we are proud to deliver interdisciplinary, team-based health care and the combined shortage of physicians and nurses threatens our ability to sustain continuity of care for the individuals, families, and communities we serve.

We join you and your colleagues in Congress, health professional societies, and the general public in being deeply concerned about the current and anticipated shortage of nurses and specialty and primary care physicians. As you know, Advocate Aurora is a champion for our nation's graduate medical education pipeline, and we play an active role in educating and training the next generation of the nation's health care professionals. We believe the ability to recapture unused employment-based immigrant visas will help bolster the nation's health care workforce and ensure access to quality care.

Should you or your staff have any questions or if we can be of any assistance on this or other matters, please do not hesitate to contact me (meghan.woltman@aah.org or 312/933-0455). We welcome the opportunity to partner with you and your staff on other matters pertaining to strengthening the nation's health care workforce.

Sincerely,



Meghan Woltman