

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Collins:

The 50 undersigned organizations commend you for introducing the *Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act* (S.665).

Regardless of geographic location, all patients deserve access to quality healthcare. Yet, the stark reality is that our country is facing a severe shortage of physicians in an expansive number of specialties. This lack of physicians is especially acute in rural and underserved communities. Thankfully, for nearly three decades the Conrad 30 waiver program has helped Americans in rural and underserved areas receive medical care from more than 15,000 high-quality international medical graduate (IMG) physicians in their local communities. A key part of the success of the current program is its flexible design that allows each state to customize the 30-waiver allocation to address its unique needs.

Continuation of this program is especially critical for specialties that train a high number of IMGs who come to the United States on J-1 visas to complete their residency. Without a Conrad 30 waiver, these visas require this category of IMGs to return to their country of origin for at least two years before applying for another visa or green card. The unfortunate byproduct of this restriction is an immediate prohibition on domestically trained IMGs practicing in our country that, in turn, jeopardizes their ability to ever practice in the United States in doubt. IMGs, however, play a vital role in providing greater access to health care for millions of patients, particularly in historically underserved communities who have also been hit hard by the recent global health care crisis.

Consequently, we strongly support that the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act would reauthorize this crucial program for three years, make several targeted policy improvements, and permit the gradual expansion of the number of waivers granted to each state. While this program was expanded from 20 to 30 slots once before, the number of waivers allocated to each state remained stagnant for the last two decades, despite our health care workforce shortage becoming more severe.

Reauthorizing and strengthening this program is one of many policy solutions to curtail the ongoing medical provider workforce challenges across the country and we look forward to working with you to see this important legislation enacted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly McCone, Senior Congressional Affairs Manager at the American Academy of Neurology at [kmcccone@aan.com](mailto:kmcccone@aan.com).

Sincerely,

Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy  
ALS Association  
Ambulatory Surgery Center Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Home Care Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Brain Coalition  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of University Professors of Neurology  
Child Neurology Society  
Cohen Veterans Bioscience  
College of American Pathologists  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Epilepsy Association  
Federation of American Hospitals  
HD Reach  
Hydrocephalus Association  
M-CM Network  
Miles for Migraine  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Immigration Forum  
National MS Society  
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia  
Niskanen Center  
North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS)  
Parkinson's Foundation

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Physicians for American Healthcare Access  
Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA)  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)  
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons