



March 16, 2023

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Rosen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Klobuchar, Collins, Rosen, and Tillis:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 129,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express the AAFP's support for the *Conrad State 30 & Physician Access Act* (S. 665). Your legislation would allow international medical graduates (IMGs) to remain in the U.S. upon completing their residency under the condition that they practice in areas experiencing doctor shortages.

As the nation's largest primary care organization, our members provide care to more than 190 million patients annually. Family physicians are acutely aware of the current shortage of primary care physicians across the country and the important role IMGs play in addressing this shortage.

Currently, resident physicians from other countries working in the U.S. on J-1 visa waivers are required to return to their home country after their residency has ended for two years before they can apply for another visa or green card. The Conrad 30 Waiver Program allows these physicians to remain in the U.S. without having to return home if they agree to practice in an underserved area for three years. Many communities, including rural and low-income urban districts, have problems meeting their patient care needs and depend on the physicians in this program to provide health care services. With communities across the country facing physician shortages, your legislation ensures that physicians who are often educated and trained in the U.S. can continue to provide care for patients during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

We applaud this bipartisan reauthorization of the program and for the recognition of the important role immigrating physicians play in our nation's health care infrastructure. We are pleased to support your legislation and look forward to working with you to improve health care for all Americans. If you have any questions, please contact John Aguilar, Manager of Legislative Affairs, at jaquilar@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Sterling N. Ransone, Jr., MD, FFAFP
Board Chair, American Academy of Family Physicians

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