

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Finkenauer, Cole, and Bacon:

We greatly appreciate Congress's work to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19, including introduction of the HEROES Act with provisions from H.R. 6788, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, a bipartisan bill to enhance our nurse and physician workforce during the COVID-19 crisis by recapturing unused immigrant visas. We continue to see the toll our healthcare workforce shortage is taking as our heroic health care workers care for patients during the pandemic.

As physicians, nurses, and other healthcare workers continue to serve Americans during this public health emergency, International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and foreign-born professionals are a crucial part of this healthcare workforce. The U.S. has historically relied on IMGs and immigrant health professionals to provide critical care for some of the most vulnerable populations in our nation, including lower-income and underserved communities, and particularly older adults and those with underlying health conditions in these communities, where we see the most dire and fatal consequences of COVID-19. We urgently need to expand our frontline workforce to provide high-quality and effective health care to our older loved ones. For example, a recent survey reported that 48 percent of nursing and assisted living facilities are experiencing employee shortages due to the pandemic.¹

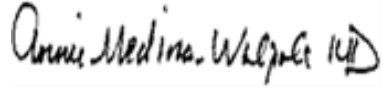
As a nationwide, not-for-profit society of geriatrics healthcare professionals, including foreign-born members, the American Geriatrics Society is dedicated to improving the health, independence, and quality of life of older people. Our clinician members continue to be on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19 with some of our most vulnerable older Americans. We appreciate the inclusion of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act in H.R. 6800, the HEROES Act, to ensure our nation expands the number of IMGs and other qualified health care workers available to care for older Americans during the current unprecedented crisis and beyond. We urge Congress to pass H.R. 6788.

Thank you for all you are doing to support healthcare professionals and patients during this challenging time. We stand ready to support you and provide guidance as the situation continues to evolve. Thank

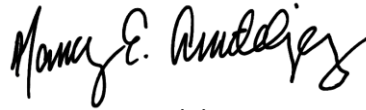
¹ Business Wire, (2020, April). As COVID-19 Pushes Hospital Patients to Post-Acute Care Settings Supply and Resource Needs Grow, Per Premier Inc. Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/PR-CO-20200414-909367>

you for your consideration of our request. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact Anna Kim by emailing akim@americangeriatrics.org.

Sincerely,



Annette Medina-Walpole, MD
President



Nancy E. Lundebjerg
Chief Executive Officer

May 26, 2020

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Perdue, Young, Cornyn, Durbin, Coons, and Leahy:

We greatly appreciate Congress's work to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19, including introduction S. 3599, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, a bipartisan bill to enhance our nurse and physician workforce during the COVID-19 crisis by recapturing unused immigrant visas. We continue to see the toll our healthcare workforce shortage is taking as our heroic health care workers care for patients during the pandemic.

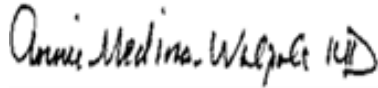
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¹ Business Wire, (2020, April). As COVID-19 Pushes Hospital Patients to Post-Acute Care Settings Supply and Resource Needs Grow, Per Premier Inc. Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/PR-CO-20200414-909367>

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Sincerely,



Annette Medina-Walpole, MD
President



Nancy E. Lundebjerg
Chief Executive Officer