

Support Policies for Frontline Clinicians during the COVID-19 Pandemic Help U.S. and International Medical Graduates Provide Care

Talking Points for Use in Calls with Members of Congress and Staff

- I urge you to support policies that will help frontline clinicians, including U.S. and international medical graduates, as they care for patients during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- Many primary care physicians are being asked to come out of retirement to provide care, and there is an increasing reliance on medical graduates, both U.S. and international, to serve on the frontlines in this fight against COVID-19.
- Residents and graduated medical students have an average debt of over \$200,000, yet will not necessarily be supported by other programs that provide direct financial support to hospitals and other physicians.
- In addition, international medical graduates (IMGs) are currently serving on the frontlines of the U.S. health care system, both under J-1 and H-1B training visas and in other forms. International medical graduates play a critical role in our ability to adequately care for patients during this national emergency, especially in remote, rural areas and in poor underserved urban areas of the country where they traditionally practice.
- I am asking Congress to include the following bills as part of any future COVID relief package:
 - ✓ **The Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S. 948)** would allow states to sponsor foreign-trained physicians to work in medically underserved areas in exchange for a waiver of the physicians' two-year foreign residence requirement. It also addresses the current backlog in the system for physicians on J-1 visas who wish to acquire permanent residency status (green cards).
 - ✓ **The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S. 3599)** would authorize immigrant visas for health care clinicians, including up to 15,000 physicians who are eligible to practice in the United States or are already in the country on temporary work visas, with a pathway to permanent residency.
 - ✓ **The Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act (H.R. 6720)** would forgive student loans for physicians and other clinicians who are on the frontlines of providing care to COVID-19 patients or helping the health care system cope with the COVID-19 public health emergency.