

April 30, 2021

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

Dear Representative Schneider:

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) greatly appreciates your ongoing work to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19, including the reintroduction of H.R. 2255, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, a bipartisan bill to enhance our nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas as we continue to face challenges from the COVID-19 crisis. Recapturing these visas would reduce the pre-existing healthcare workforce shortages that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure an adequate workforce and access to high-quality, person-centered care for us all as we age across the lifespan.

As physicians, nurses, and other healthcare workers continue to serve Americans during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and foreign-born professionals are a crucial part of this healthcare workforce. The United States 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 have seen the most dire and fatal consequences of COVID-19. It is critical that we expand our frontline workforce to provide high-quality and effective health care to our older loved ones.

As a nationwide, not-for-profit society of geriatrics healthcare professionals, including foreign-born members, the AGS is dedicated to improving the health, independence, and quality of life of older people. Our clinician members have been on the frontlines of caring for medically complex older adults during the COVID-19 crisis and teaching others to do the same and more for us all as we age. We appreciate the reintroduction of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act to ensure our nation expands the number of IMGs and other qualified health care workers available to care for older Americans during the COVID-19 PHE and beyond. We urge Congress to make the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act law.

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 our nation works toward recovery and resilience from the COVID-19 pandemic. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact Anna Kim by emailing akim@americangeriatrics.org.

Sincerely,



Annette Medina-Walpole, MD, AGSF
President



Nancy E. Lundebjerg, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Representative Tom Cole
Representative Tom O'Halleran
Representative Don Bacon

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) greatly appreciates your ongoing work to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19, including the reintroduction of S. 1024, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, a bipartisan bill to enhance our nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas as we continue to face challenges from the COVID-19 crisis. Recapturing these visas would reduce the pre-existing healthcare workforce shortages that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure an adequate workforce and access to high-quality, person-centered care for us all as we age across the lifespan.

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Sincerely,



Annette Medina-Walpole, MD, AGSF
President



Nancy E. Lundebjerg, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Senator John Cornyn
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Todd Young
Senator Chris Coons
Senator Susan Collins