



June 24, 2020

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

The Honorable Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Smith:

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students, I write today to urge your support for S. 3599, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. The MMA strongly supports this smart, effective way to expand access to care by supporting international medical graduates (IMGs), a need made more acute because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 3599 would help offset a growing shortage of physicians by allowing previously unused immigrant visas to be made available for physicians for up to 90 days following the end of the declared national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Passage of this important, bipartisan legislation could clear the way for up to 15,000 additional physicians to practice in the United States.

Foreign-trained physicians have a critical role to play in delivering high quality medical care. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many areas of the country – including both urban and rural parts of Minnesota – faced significant shortages of physicians. Studies have shown that IMGs are more likely to provide care in underserved areas and populations. Even prior to the start of the pandemic, there was significant need for additional physicians, and the demand for high quality physicians and other providers is only certain to grow in the coming months and years. Passage of legislation such as the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will provide critical assistance in addressing these shortages.

Minnesota's physician community urges your support for this important legislation to ease the shortage of physicians in underserved areas and populations. Should you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Eric Dick, MMA Manager of State Legislative Affairs, at [edick@mnmed.org](mailto:edick@mnmed.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Stelter, MD  
President  
Minnesota Medical Association