



Association of
American Medical Colleges
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March 28, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lawler
324 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Lawler and Clarke:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for introducing the Doctors in Our Borders Act (H.R. 1201) and to offer our support. This important legislation would expand the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa (Conrad 30) Waiver program, a key program for recruiting physicians and delivering care in underserved communities.

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, biomedical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 160 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 12 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 500 academic health systems and teaching hospitals, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals, and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 210,000 full-time faculty members, 99,000 medical students, 162,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Through the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International, AAMC membership reaches more than 60 international academic health centers throughout five regional offices across the globe.

The Conrad 30 Waiver program has been highly successful in improving access to care for underserved communities by recruiting both primary care and specialty physicians after they complete their medical residency training under the J-1 visa exchange visitor program. Each state may sponsor up to 30 waiver applications each fiscal year for qualified J-1 visa physicians. This program allows states to waive the 2-year home residency requirement for foreign medical graduates (FMGs) upon completion of their medical residencies on a J-1 visa and requires up to

3 years of service obligation in an underserved area. As such, more doctors are able to practice in underserved communities, including both rural and urban community health centers.

Recruiting and retaining physicians to care for patients in communities across the country is especially critical as the AAMC projects that the United States will face a shortage of up to 86,000 physicians by 2036.¹ The bipartisan Doctors in Our Borders Act would help overcome hurdles that have stymied the growth of the physician workforce by allowing J-1 visa physicians to increase access to care in the United States, in exchange for a commitment of three years of service in an underserved area.

The Doctors in Our Borders Act would implement new waiver limits, which have not been increased in the past two decades, by increasing the number of state-issued waivers from 30 to 100. This increase would help to bolster our nation's health care infrastructure by increasing access to quality health care services in medically underserved communities.

Thank you for your efforts to help strengthen the health workforce and increase access to care. The AAMC looks forward to working with you to enact the Doctors in Our Borders Act during the 119th Session of Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" and last name "Turnipseed" clearly legible, and the middle initial "P." in between.

Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP
AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer

CC: David J. Skorton, MD, AAMC President and CEO

¹ [The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2021 to 2036](#)