



April 21, 2026

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

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Elvira Salazar
2162 Rayburn 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, Bishop, Salazar, and Clarke:

On behalf of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges),¹ I write to thank you for introducing the bipartisan *H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act (H.R. 7961)*, which would exempt physicians and other health care workers from the new \$100,000 fee required for certain H-1B visa petitions imposed by the Presidential Proclamation, *Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers* (Proclamation 10973). This legislation would also prohibit additional fees from being imposed on health care workers that exceed the existing fees under the U.S. Code. The AAMC is pleased to offer our support for this legislation.

The AAMC projects that the United States will face a persistent shortage of up to 86,000 primary care and specialty physicians by 2036.² The Presidential Proclamation on H-1B visas will worsen this physician shortage, put strains on the health care workforce and the occupational shortages of highly skilled workers within academic institutions who are unavailable, and jeopardize patient access to care. International medical graduates (IMGs) represent almost 25 percent of the current physician workforce, and they often work in underserved areas hardest hit by the physician workforce shortage.³ Given the ongoing physician workforce shortage, our nation

¹ The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, clinical care, biomedical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 162 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 Canadian medical schools accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of 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. Learn more at aamc.org.

² GlobalData Plc. *The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2021 to 2036*. Washington, DC: AAMC; 2024.

³ Jacobs JW, Wheeler AP, Horstman E, Booth GS. How Immigration Policy Threatens US Medical Training and

cannot meet its current health care needs without the help of H-1B physicians and other H-1B health care sector professionals.

International health care professionals in the U.S. under the H-1B visa program are essential to addressing health care workforce shortages and delivering care to communities across America. Far from displacing U.S. workers, these highly educated and extensively vetted visa holders serve as an important complement within our health workforce, helping fill gaps in areas of need. H-1B visa holders are also instrumental in preparing the next generation of physicians and scientists as clinical and research faculty.

In addition to the critical role of H-1B physicians and health professionals, the AAMC also appreciates the invaluable contributions of postdoctoral scholars in the biological and biomedical sciences, research staff, and clinical research faculty in sustaining the United States' position as a global leader in biomedical research. There are other health professionals with H-1B visas at AAMC member institutions that provide significant value and clinical care, including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and therapists (respiratory, occupational, physical, speech pathologists).

The *H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act* represents an important first step toward addressing the significant and real challenges facing the academic medicine workforce shortage. To ensure the U.S. maintains the world's most talented health care professionals, we must have a viable pathway to practice for well qualified non-US citizen physicians. This bipartisan legislation helps by supporting our nation's medical schools, academic health systems, and teaching hospitals that rely on highly educated international talent.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support the physician and health workforce, and toward our mutual goal of improved health for all. The AAMC looks forward to working with you to enact the *H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act*. Please contact me or Andrea Price-Carter, AAMC Director of Health Equity Advocacy and Government Relations, at apricecarter@aamc.org, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

cc: David Skorton, MD
AAMC President and CEO