



American Association of
Directors of Psychiatric
Residency Training

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider
1432 Longworth House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Finkenauer
124 Cannon House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
1024 Longworth House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Cole, Finkenauer and Bacon:

On behalf of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT), the national organization representing training directors for psychiatry residency and fellowship programs, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing **The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, S3599/HR2678**, and wholeheartedly support its swift enactment.

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) constitute approximately 30% of our physician workforce and have been an irreplaceable and vital resource during this COVID-19 pandemic. IMG physicians have played a critical role providing health care during this pandemic, especially in underserved areas with higher rates of pre-existing chronic disease, which as you are aware, has been correlated with higher morbidity and mortality rates. The US healthcare system has had a shortage of the psychiatric workforce for years, and this has only been accentuated in these times of immediate need. With growing needs for mental health services for citizens of all ages, and a huge shortage of physicians, the need for continued support for our physicians has never been more urgent.

While selflessly helping our patients and saving lives in this time of a deadly pandemic, IMGs have suffered another setback related to the uncertainty of their immigration concerns. Your leadership in enthusiastically pursuing this critical legislation in an urgent manner will allow our nation to recapture previously unused employment-based visas and expedite the approval of such applications. Furthermore, this legislation will allow us to help reduce the backlog of physicians waiting for more than a decade for permanent residency and enhance the workforce numerically. In addition, by exempting family members from visa limitations, this legislation will allow IMG physicians to keep their families together as they work and save lives.

Thank you again for your leadership in introducing S3599/HR2678. Please advise how our organization can further assist in advancing this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Melissa Arbuckle, MD, PhD
President, American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training