



Charles N. Kahn III  
President and CEO

November 3, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Cramer  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
300 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon  
2104 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Durbin and Cramer and Representatives Bacon and Schneider,

The Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) is pleased to endorse *The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act*, a bipartisan bill that would respond to the healthcare worker shortage by recapturing 40,000 unused employment-based visas and re-allocating them to expedite the visa processing for international doctors and nurses. This legislation will help strengthen the health care workforce and improve access to care for patients across the country.

The FAH is the national representative of more than 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. FAH members provide patients and communities with access to high-quality, affordable care in both urban and rural areas across 46 states, plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Our members include teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children's, and cancer services.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing hospitals today is maintaining an adequate workforce. Hospitals in rural and underserved communities are experiencing a combination of provider burnout, physician and staffing shortages, and difficulty attracting workers to these areas. These factors cause significant strain on hospital operations and have a direct effect on the ability of our hospitals to meet the needs of the patients and communities in which we serve.

One pathway for new workers in the health care sector is legal immigration from foreign countries. The downstream impact of reduced net legal immigration in recent years due to both

policy and pandemic factors has created enormous gaps in the health care workforce, increasing labor costs for struggling hospitals.

Federal legislative action is essential to solving our countries' workforce crisis. The *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* removes inefficiencies in our immigration system and allows foreign-trained qualified physicians and nurses to come to the US to fill vacancies unfilled by US workers. We urge Congress to pass *The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act* to prioritize visas for workers in the health care industry and help hospitals recruit and retain the next generation of doctors and nurses.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our support of the legislation further, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff at (202) 624-1534.

Sincerely,

