AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 204
(I-18)

Introduced by: Resident and Fellow Section
Subject: Restriction on IMG Moonlighting
Referred to: Reference Committee B
(Francis P. MacMillan, Jr., MD, Chair)

Whereas, The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts a physician shortage of more than 100,000 doctors by the year 2030; and
Whereas, International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are more likely to practice in primary care specialties than US medical graduates; and
Whereas, Foreign-born IMGs were more likely to practice in rural underserved areas than US born IMGs; and
Whereas, The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) sponsors approximately 10,000 J-1 visas annually; and
Whereas, The ECFMG prohibits physicians with a J-1 visa from moonlighting based on the US Code of Federal Regulations 22CFR62.16, and subsequently prohibits physicians with J-1 visas privileges to bill for services rendered; and
Whereas, Providing physicians with a J-1 visa billing privileges and the ability to moonlight may improve the access to care in certain areas; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for changes to federal legislation allowing physicians with a J-1 visa in fellowship training programs the ability to moonlight. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined

Received: 09/27/18

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Employment of Non-Certified IMGs H-255.970
Our AMA will: (1) oppose efforts to employ graduates of foreign medical schools who are neither certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, nor have met state criteria for full licensure; and (2) encourage states that have difficulty recruiting doctors to underserved areas to explore the expanded use of incentive programs such as the National Health Service Corps or J1 or other visa waiver programs.
Citation: (Res. 309, A-03; Reaffirmed: CME Rep. 2, A-13)

References:
1 Research Shows Shortage of More than 100,000 Doctors by 2030. Available at: https://news.aamc.org/medical-education/article/new-aamc-research-reaffirms-loomng-physician-shor/.
2 International Medical Graduates and The Primary Care Workforce For Rural Underserved Areas. Available at https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.22.2.255.