

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 229
(A-22)

Introduced by: Michigan

Subject: Expedited Immigrant Green Card for J-1 Visa Waiver Physicians Serving in Underserved Areas

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, International medical graduates (IMG) resident physicians with J-1 visas can waive
2 the mandatory return to their native country as required per J-1 regulation and become eligible
3 to stay in the United States as a permanent resident by serving in underserved areas for three
4 years; and

5
6 Whereas, Their service is extremely helpful in improving the health of U.S. citizens, especially
7 low income and rural communities; and

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9 Whereas, Substantial care to COVID-19 patients was provided by these J-1 visa waiver
10 physicians and they saved lives; and

11
12 Whereas, The waiting period for getting the green card visa for physicians of certain countries is
13 longer than 10 years at present due to the seven percent per country cap of visa conversions to
14 green cards, and the J-1 visa waiver physicians have to join the end of the very long queue of
15 1.2 million applicants for certain countries, and meanwhile their children are becoming status
16 less at age 18; and

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18 Whereas, These J-1 visa waiver physicians provided great national service to US citizens, and
19 deserve priority in visa allotment; therefore be it

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21 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association lobby U.S. Congress and the U.S.
22 Administration that the J-1 visa waiver physicians serving in underserved areas be given highest
23 priority in visa conversion to green cards upon completion of their service commitment
24 obligation and be exempted from the per country limitation of H-1B to green card visa
25 conversion. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/11/22

Sources:

1. <https://www.cato.org/publications/immigration-research-policy-brief/backlog-skilled-immigrants-tops-1-million-over#employment-based-green-card-backlog>
2. [1.4 Million Skilled Immigrants in Employment-Based Green Card Backlogs in 2021 | Cato at Liberty Blog](#)
3. [Letter to USCIS on Impact of Green Card Backlog on IMGs](#)
4. [Backlog for Skilled Immigrants Tops 1 Million: Over 200,000 Indians Could Die of Old Age While Awaiting Green Cards | Cato Institute](#)

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

J-1 Visas and Waivers D-255.993

1. Our AMA shall encourage HHS and other interested government agencies to continue sponsorship of the J-1 visa waiver program.
2. If the USDA does not continue in its role as an interested government agency (IGA), the AMA encourage HHS to expand its J-1 visa waiver program.
3. Our AMA will work with federal agencies to ensure better coordination of federal, state, and local agencies in monitoring the placement and enforcement of physicians' service requirements through the J-1 waiver and Conrad-30 programs with a report back at A-03.
4. Our AMA will work towards regulation and/or legislation to allow physicians on H-1B visas for their J-1 visa waiver, who are limited to serving in medically underserved areas, to continue to care for their patients who require hospitalization in the closest appropriate medical facility which may not be in the underserved area.
5. Our AMA will work with state medical societies to study and report back on the feasibility of having a national data repository of J-1 Visa Waiver statistics so that J-1 Visa Waiver unoffered positions can be transferred to states as needed to treat underserved communities and to monitor the success of this program.

Citation: (BOT Rep. 11, I-02; Appended: Res. 324, A-11; Appended: Res. 904, I-11; Reaffirmation A-14)

DRAFT