

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution:
(A-26)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduates Section

Subject: Exemption of International Medical Graduates from Presidential Proclamations Restricting Entry into the United States

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

- 1 Whereas, International Medical Graduates (IMGs) constitute a critical component of the United
2 States physician workforce and play an essential role in providing care, particularly in
3 underserved and rural communities¹; and
4
- 5 Whereas, non-U.S. citizen IMGs frequently rely on non-immigrant visas, including J-1 and H-1B
6 programs, to participate in U.S. graduate medical education and subsequently serve in areas of
7 greatest physician and patient care need²; and
8
- 9 Whereas, recent federal actions, including presidential proclamations, have suspended or
10 limited visa issuance and entry for nationals of multiple countries, thereby affecting physicians
11 seeking to enter the United States for residency and fellowship training³; and
12
- 13 Whereas, these proclamations apply broadly to individuals outside the United States without
14 valid visas, including fully vetted physicians who have successfully matched into accredited U.S.
15 residency programs and satisfied rigorous screening, credentialing, and licensure
16 requirements²; and
17
- 18 Whereas, IMGs undergo extensive vetting through credential verification, standardized
19 examinations, background checks, and institutional review before entering U.S. training
20 programs⁴; and
21
- 22 Whereas, restricting the entry of qualified physicians may disrupt residency training pipelines
23 and adversely affect patient care, particularly in hospitals and communities dependent on
24 IMGs⁵; and
25
- 26 Whereas, the absence or delay of incoming resident physicians may compromise staffing at
27 teaching hospitals, reduce access to care, and exacerbate existing physician shortages⁶;
28
- 29 Whereas, current proclamations allow for limited case-by-case national interest exceptions but
30 lack clear, consistent, and categorical exemptions for physicians entering the United States to
31 provide essential medical care³; and
32
- 33 Whereas, future presidential proclamations or similar federal actions may continue to impose
34 broad entry restrictions without explicit consideration of the essential role of physicians in
35 safeguarding public health³; therefore be it
36
- 37 **RESOLVED**, that our American Medical Association advocate for the categorical exemption of
38 International Medical Graduates from current and future presidential proclamations and federal
39 policies that restrict visa issuance or entry into the United States when such individuals are

- 1 entering for the purpose of participating in accredited graduate medical education or providing
2 patient care (Direction to Take Action); and be it further
3
4 RESOLVED, that our AMA monitor and report on the impact of such policies on International
5 Medical Graduate participation, physician workforce supply, patient access to care; and develop
6 recommendations for ongoing advocacy. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

Received:

REFERENCES

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2. National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). *Data, Reports, and Results*.
<https://www.nrmp.org/match-data/>
3. U.S. Department of State. *Presidential Proclamations on Visa and Entry Restrictions*.
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/presidential-proclamations.html>
4. Intealth / ECFMG. *Certification and Impact of Immigration Policies on International Medical Graduates*.
<https://www.intealth.org>
5. Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). *Physician Workforce Data and Projections*.
<https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce>
6. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)*.
<https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

None.

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