Resolution: 2
(I-22)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduates Section

Subject: Eliminating Practice Barriers for Immigrant Physicians During Public Health Emergencies

Referred to: Reference Committee

Whereas, Minoritized populations, including people of color, immigrants, and people with chronic diseases were disproportionately affected by the pandemic; and

Whereas, International medical graduates, board-certified and trained in the U.S. institutions, are often the frontline physicians in the federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSA) for their waiver requirements; and

Whereas, Physicians in the HPSA serve the lower income and immigrant population, and the older and sicker population covered by Medicare and Medicaid; and

Whereas, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, most states took measures to alleviate practice restrictions for in-training, out-of-state, and retired physicians to allow the additional workforce to join hands in managing critical staff shortages during public health emergencies; and

Whereas, IMG physicians serving in the HPSA are restricted to one healthcare organization, further limited to one geographical location by definition of the work location listed in their Labor Condition Application (ETA Form 9035) as a prerequisite to their work Visa, H1B; and

Whereas, Except for a few specific instances like that in New York and New Jersey states, IMG physicians were excluded from the special provisions for in and out-of-state expedited physicians licensing, preventing them from helping out the workforce shortage during the public health emergency; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advise the state medical boards and other stakeholders to allow physicians in the health professional shortage areas to have access to all unique and expedited licensing options, both inside and outside of the state of their practice during public health emergencies, to facilitate workforce utilization at the time of critical shortage (Directive to Take Action); and be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocates at the state and national level and advises the Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security to allow provisions for such licensing inclusions for the physicians on a Visa during public health emergencies (Directive to Take Action).

References


4. Labor Condition Application: [https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/preh1bform.cfm](https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/preh1bform.cfm)


Fiscal Note: Minimal – less than $1,000

Received: xx/xx/22

Relevant AMA Policy
None