

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 5 (Assigned by HOD)
(I-25)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduates Section

Subject: Exemption from Proposed H-1B Fee Increases

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

1 Whereas, international medical graduates (IMGs) represent 25% of the U.S. physician
2 workforce and are essential in addressing physician shortages, particularly in primary care,
3 rural, and underserved areas; and
4

5 Whereas, thousands of U.S. trained physicians in the United States rely on H-1B visas at
6 various stages of their careers, including residency and fellowship training, during transitions
7 from J-1 status, and while serving in underserved communities through the Conrad 30 and other
8 J-1 waiver programs; and
9

10 Whereas, the President's administration has proposed a rule imposing a \$100,000 fee for H-1B
11 visas, which, if applied to physicians, would create an insurmountable barrier to entry and
12 retention of qualified doctors in the U.S.; and
13

14 Whereas, physicians are often unintended collateral damage in broader immigration policy
15 changes, despite their essential contributions to U.S. healthcare delivery and their commitment
16 to serving in areas of greatest need; and
17

18 Whereas, there is precedent for creating a healthcare-specific visa category, as demonstrated
19 by the H-1C visa program, which was created exclusively for nurses during a severe nursing
20 shortage before being discontinued in 2009; and
21

22 Whereas, the National Interest Waiver provision has previously been used as a precedent to
23 recognize physicians serving in rural and underserved areas as eligible for immigration benefits,
24 underscoring the federal government's recognition of their critical role in meeting national health
25 care needs; and
26

27 Whereas, restricting or discouraging physicians from obtaining H-1B visas would worsen
28 existing physician shortages, threaten continuity of patient care, and undermine federal and
29 state efforts to expand healthcare access; therefore be it
30

31 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association advocate for the federal government to
32 work to ensure physicians are exempt from any proposed increases in H-1B visa fees, including
33 the proposed \$100,000 charge, through feasible alternatives such as by including them in the
34 National Interest Waiver (Directive to Take Action); and be it
35

36 RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate for the creation of a dedicated non-immigrant visa pathway
37 specifically for physicians, in recognition of their essential role in U.S. healthcare and to prevent
38 them from being unintended casualties of broader immigration policy changes. (Directive to
39 Take Action)
40

Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

Received:

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Expedited H-1B Pathways for International Medical Graduate Physicians in the USA H-255.961

Our American Medical Association supports the continuance of premium processing and other mechanisms that expedite **H-1B visa** applications and renewals for International Medical Graduate physicians. Res. 222, A-25

REFERENCES

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

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