

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 1
(I-26)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduates Section

Subject: Increasing Legislative Advocacy and Dedicated National Educational Programming for International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

1 Whereas, International Medical Graduates (IMGs) constitute approximately 25% of the active
2 physician workforce in the United States, providing critical medical care across primary care and
3 subspecialty fields; and
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5 Whereas, IMGs disproportionately serve in federally designated Health Professional Shortage
6 Areas (HPSAs), Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs), and rural communities, providing care to
7 over 20 million Americans who reside in regions where foreign-trained physicians account for at
8 least half of the local physician pipeline; and
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10 Whereas, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) projects a severe shortage of
11 up to 86,000 to 124,000 physicians, underscoring the indispensable necessity of recruiting,
12 retaining, and supporting IMG physicians to preserve healthcare access; and
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14 Whereas, IMG physicians navigate complex regulatory, administrative, and immigration hurdles,
15 including visa processing delays, Conrad 30 waiver caps, and green card backlogs which
16 frequently disrupt clinical training, delay entry into practice, and jeopardize continuity of patient
17 care; and
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19 Whereas, federal and state legislators, policymakers, and health system leaders often lack
20 comprehensive education regarding the structural barriers IMGs face and the vital role they play
21 in sustaining the U.S. healthcare safety net; and
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23 Whereas, creating dedicated, recurring advocacy tracks, legislative education forums, and
24 unique programming focused on IMGs at national venues (such as the AMA National Advocacy
25 Conference and House of Delegates meetings) would elevate the IMG voice, build legislative
26 allies, and foster proactive policy solutions; therefore, be it
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28 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association (AMA) expand its federal and state
29 advocacy efforts to actively educate legislators, administrative agencies, and health system
30 policymakers on the critical role International Medical Graduates (IMGs) play in addressing
31 national physician workforce shortages and improving healthcare access in underserved
32 populations (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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34 RESOLVED, that our AMA collaborate with the AMA International Medical Graduates Section
35 (AMA-IMGs), state medical societies, and relevant specialty organizations to establish unique,
36 dedicated events and educational programming, including legislative briefings, advocacy
37 workshops, and policy panels focused on IMG workforce integration at national meetings such
38 as the AMA National Advocacy Conference (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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- 1 RESOLVED, that our AMA develop educational materials and policy toolkits highlighting key IMG
- 2 workforce issues (such as visa reauthorization, green card backlog relief, and licensing equity) for
- 3 distribution to federal and state lawmakers to support targeted healthcare workforce legislation. (Directive
- 4 to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: (assigned by HOD)

Received:

References

1. American Medical Association. (2024). IMGs overcome barriers to offer critically needed care. AMA Education & Advocacy. <https://www.ama-assn.org/education/international-medical-education/imgs-overcome-barriers-offer-critically-needed-care>
2. Association of American Medical Colleges. (2024). The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2021 to 2036. AAMC. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/data-open-data/physician-supply-and-demand-projections>
3. American Medical Association. (2026). National Advocacy Update: Clearing IMGs' Route to Practice. AMA Advocacy in Action. <https://www.ama-assn.org/health-care-advocacy/advocacy-update>
4. Health Resources and Services Administration. (2023). Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.