

RESOLUTION

Subject: J-1 Visa Waiver Program

Submitted by: Northern Kentucky Medical Association, Greater Louisville Medical Society, Ralph Alvarado, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, we are now experiencing a physician shortage in Kentucky and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks 40th among the United States in its primary care physician workforce per 100,000 people, with 2,696 practicing primary care physicians statewide; and

WHEREAS, in order to not worsen its PC physician shortage, Kentucky would have to add 119 primary care physicians per year, bringing their total number in Kentucky to approximately 3,208 in the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, we have a large group of international medical graduates currently working in the united states including Kentucky waiting years to obtain a permanent work visa; and

WHEREAS, without a permanent work visa they are subject to deportation further aggravating our work force deficit; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services offers J-1 Visa Waiver programs in the Health Care Access Branch to assist the public and private health sectors in qualifying to employ an international medical graduate who may obtain a waiver of his or her two-year home residency requirement by serving in a health professional shortage area or medically underserved area/population for a period of three years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association support federal and state legislation to support a revision of immigration policy to expedite the immigration process for international medical graduate physicians.

References

¹ <https://ruralhealth.med.uky.edu/sites/default/files/Kentuckys%20Primary%20Care%20Workforce%20Shortages.pdf>

² <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dpqi/hcab/Pages/j1visawaiver.aspx>