



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

June 4, 2020

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, service providers and organizations, I would like to express our support for S. 3599, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, and recommend its swift passage in the Senate.

As an organization guided by the social teachings of the Catholic Church, CHA affirms that each person is created in the image of God, and that each human life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth. This affirmation has been a guiding principle for the Catholic health ministry's work and advocacy on behalf of our nation's immigrant population, many of whom have served as vital members of our Catholic health systems and facilities and support their mission to bring the healing ministry of Jesus to all. Immigrant physicians and nurses in particular have enriched our ministry as well as our nation's health care workforce. But many of them, present in our country on limited work visas, lack the certainty and flexibility of permanent residency status, despite working in underserved areas and bolstering our nation's health care infrastructure during the global pandemic.

The bipartisan Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act will provide a long-term solution for these workers by recapturing 15,000 unused employment-based immigrant visas from prior years for physicians and 25,000 for professional nurses. By providing a fast track to permanent residency, this legislation will ensure that these vital members of the health care workforce can continue to meet the urgent health care needs our nation faces at this time without the fear and uncertainty that their legal status in the U.S. is in jeopardy. Permanent residency also will allow greater flexibility in work assignments, helping our Catholic facilities extend their healing mission to where the needs are greatest.

We hope you will join us in support of S. 3599, and please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of CHA's advocacy staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO