

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for all your hard work on the upcoming omnibus appropriations legislation. As you continue to craft the final bill, we want to bring your attention to the important Conrad State 30 Waiver Program (“Conrad 30”), which is set to expire at the end of the year.

The United States faces a daunting shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas. This shortage is likely to continue to hurt America’s rural communities—particularly as we battle COVID-19—as only 2% of doctors in their final year of medical school say they want to live in towns of fewer than 25,000 residents. Americans living in rural communities are seven times as likely as those in urban areas to report that they are unable to get the health care they need. The Conrad 30 program has brought thousands of foreign physicians, trained in the United States, to rural, inner city, and other medically underserved communities since 1994. After completing residencies in the United States on J-1 visas, foreign doctors are required to return to their home country for two years. Under Conrad 30, in exchange for three years of service in an underserved area, doctors receive a waiver of the home return requirement. Every state has benefitted from Conrad 30, which Congress has consistently reauthorized annually through the appropriations process since 2016.

The Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Act (H.R. 3541) reauthorizes the program and makes minor improvements to its functions, all while maintaining the deep bipartisan support – from every corner of the country – for this important program. Our companion bill in the Senate similarly reflects this deep bipartisan support. This program is also a vital tool for addressing health disparities in medically underserved areas. Every state in the country has utilized this program, and many regularly reach the cap of 30 slots.

However, because the program lapses at the end of 2022, we urge you to include our bipartisan bill Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act (H.R.3541) in the omnibus bill to

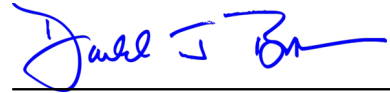
reauthorize this crucial program for three years, make targeted improvements to the program, and permit the expansion of the number of waivers granted to each state in our country. This bipartisan bill is also supported by a broad range of constituencies, including patients, physicians, hospitals, and immigration organizations, and enjoys more than 110 bipartisan cosponsors in the House.

We cannot keep kicking the can down the road on Conrad 30 reauthorization as we have done in years past. We urge you to include our bipartisan bill to extend and improve the program as you negotiate items to include in the omnibus this year.

Sincerely, Bradley S. Schneider & Don Bacon



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
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Susan Wild
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Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress