June 10, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider
United States House of Representatives
432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
United States House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
United States House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Finkenauer, Cole, and Bacon:

On behalf of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), I write to you today to voice support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act and urge quick passage of this legislation. The legislation, which would allow the government to recapture 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas, would bolster the U.S. healthcare workforce, not only bringing relief to our current frontline providers but also helping to ensure that U.S. patients have the care they deserve.

The COVID-19 public health emergency highlighted the already dwindling healthcare workforce in the U.S. Throughout the crisis, certain areas of the country have had to recall retired physicians, expand physician practice areas, and modify out-of-state licensing laws. International Medical Graduates (IMGs) already play a vital role in the U.S. healthcare workforce – especially in medically-underserved areas of our country – and increasing the number of visas available to IMGs would help to address the ongoing shortage the U.S. is currently facing.

ASH joins many others in the physician community, including the American Medical Association, in supporting this important piece of legislation. As the U.S. continues to deal with the COVID-19 crisis, the time to act on this is now. ASH urges the House of Representatives to pass the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. If the Society can ever serve as a resource, please reach out to Leslie Brady, ASH Policy and Practice Manager, at lbrady@hematology.org or 716-361-2764 (cell).

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. Lee, MD, MPH
President