June 10, 2020

The Honorable David Perdue  
United States Senate  
455 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young  
United States Senate  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Perdue, Young, Cornyn, Durbin, Coons, and Leahy:

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 Senate 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