

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin L. King Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

The undersigned physician organizations representing national medical societies write to strongly urge you to issue clarifying guidance that determines that H-1B physicians entry into the U.S. is in the national interest of the country thereby exempting them from the [Proclamation](#) entitled, “*Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers.*”

This Proclamation implements a \$100,000 fee, to be paid by the prospective employer, upon [initial application](#) for an H-1B visa beginning on September 21, 2025. However, section 1(c) of the Proclamation states that the restriction will not apply to an H-1B worker, or an industry, “if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, in the Secretary’s discretion, that the hiring of such aliens to be employed as H-1B specialty occupation workers is in the national interest and does not pose a threat to the security or welfare of the United States.” Therefore, as you establish standards to define categories of H-1B workers covered by this exception, we urge you to clarify that all physicians, including medical residents, fellows, researchers, and those working in non-clinical settings, are critical to our national interest and exempt from the Proclamation.

Maintaining a robust health care workforce in the U.S. that can address the health needs of all our U.S. patients is in the best interest of the health of our nation. However, with a projected shortfall of nearly [86,000](#) physicians by 2036, there is a growing need for a larger physician workforce that the U.S. cannot fill on its own, in part because the U.S. does not have enough people in the younger generation to care for our [aging country](#). Accordingly, H-1B physicians play a critical role in filling this void, especially in areas of the U.S. with high-need populations.

In 2024, [23 percent](#) of licensed physicians in the U.S. were foreign-trained. These H-1B physicians provide vitally needed health care to U.S. patients, especially in areas of the country with higher rates of poverty and chronic disease. For example, in 2021, about [64 percent](#) of foreign-trained physicians were practicing in Medically Underserved Areas or Health Professional Shortage Areas, with almost 46 percent of these physicians practicing in rural areas. Additionally, between 2001 and 2024 almost [23,000](#) H-1B physicians worked in underserved communities. Moreover, nearly [21 million](#) Americans live in areas of the U.S. where foreign-trained physicians account for at least half of all physicians aligning with the fact that states with a [higher percentage](#) of H-1B physicians are often those with lower physician density. As such, it is important to support and expand pathways for these physicians to be able to enter the U.S. and care for our U.S. patients.

The U.S. health care workforce relies upon physicians from other countries to provide high-quality and accessible patient care. Accordingly, we must ensure that the U.S. has a fair and efficient immigration system that strengthens U.S. health care and advances the nation’s health security. Therefore, the signatories below urge the Administration to categorically consider H-1B physicians entry into the U.S. to

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be in the national interest of the country, and waive the new application fee, so that H-1B physicians can continue to be a pipeline that provides health care to U.S. patients. We sincerely appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Clinical Neurophysiology Society  
American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
College of American Pathologists  
Endocrine Society  
Heart Rhythm Society

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Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Medical Group Management Association  
North American Spine Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons