



Statement on Protecting International Medical Graduates and Access to Care

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The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) expresses deep concern regarding recent developments affecting international medical graduates (IMGs) in the United States, including public narratives, policy actions and immigration enforcement practices that threaten the stability of the physician workforce and access to the care of underserved Americans and the communities they live in.

IMG physicians are essential to American health care and play a critical role in meeting the United States' health care needs. Nearly one in four practicing physicians in the United States is an IMG, and a majority serve in Medically Underserved Areas or Health Professional Shortage Areas. They play a disproportionate role in rural communities and in primary care fields such as internal medicine and family medicine, where physician shortages are most acute.

The U.S. health care system depends on IMGs to sustain its training pipeline. In the 2026 Residency Match, there were over 41,000 residency positions but far fewer U.S. medical graduates available to fill them. IMGs filled nearly 10,000 of these positions, including a substantial proportion of primary care slots, highlighting their important role in meeting the nation's health care needs.

Policies that delay or suspend immigration processing for physicians from designated countries are disruptions to the care of the American people. When IMG physicians are unable to train or practice, all communities experience reduced access to care, longer wait times and worsening health disparities, particularly in Latino and underserved populations.

NHMA calls for the immediate resumption of immigration application processing for health care professionals affected by current policy delays and urges policymakers to ensure that administrative and enforcement processes minimize disruptions to the care of the American people by protecting physicians actively serving patients, particularly in underserved communities. We also emphasize the importance of accurate and responsible public representation of the role of IMGs in the U.S. health care system.

As an organization dedicated to advancing the health of Latino communities, NHMA underscores that limiting the ability of IMG physicians to train and practice directly impacts access to care for all Americans. Strengthening the physician workforce requires policies that support those already serving where they are needed most.