

President

Danielle Scheurer, MD, MSRC, SFHM
Charleston, South Carolina

April 1, 2021

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

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

President-Elect

Jerome C. Siy, MD, SFHM
Bloomington, Minnesota

Treasurer

Rachel Thompson, MD, MPH, SFHM
Omaha, Nebraska

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

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

Secretary

Kris Rehm, MD, SFHM
Nashville, Tennessee

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

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Immediate Past President

Christopher Frost, MD, SFHM
Franklin, Tennessee

Dear Senators Durbin, Cornyn, Leahy, Young, Coons, and Collins,

Board of Directors

Tracy Cardin, ACNP-BC, SFHM
Oak Park, Illinois

The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM), representing the nation's hospitalists, is pleased to support the reintroduction of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S.1024). This bipartisan legislation will recapture 40,000 unused employment-based visas and use them to expedite processing for immigrant doctors and nurses. Converting these visas will alleviate health care staffing shortages and ensure patients across the country have access to high-quality medical care.

Steven B. Deitelzweig, MD, MMM, FACC, SFHM
New Orleans, Louisiana

Bryce Gartland, MD, FHM
Atlanta, Georgia

Hospitalists focus on the general medical care of hospitalized patients in America's acute care hospitals. As a result, our members are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic caring for patients each day. Many hospitalists are highly trained immigrant physicians who are essential members of the hospital medicine team. Their skills, expertise, and compassion are needed throughout the country to continue the fight against COVID-19 and ensure communities maintain access to lifesaving care.

Flora Kisuule, MD, MPH, SFHM
Baltimore, Maryland

Mark W. Shen, MD, SFHM
Austin, TX

Darlene Tad-y, MD, SFHM
Aurora, Colorado

Chad T. Whelan, MD, FACP, FHM
Tucson, Arizona

In light of COVID-19 and to begin to address the pre-existing shortage of physicians nationwide, we must utilize all tools necessary to expand the healthcare provider workforce. This legislation will ensure visas for medical workers are processed in a timely manner, alleviate some of the green card backlog for physicians and nurses, and ultimately expand the available healthcare workforce. Importantly, this legislation will also protect families by allowing spouses and children to join healthcare workers in the United States.

Chief Executive Officer

Eric E. Howell, MD, MHM



As the United States continues to face unprecedented challenges from COVID-19, this legislation will help alleviate unnecessary obstacles that are preventing highly trained hospitalists from engaging in the fight against COVID-19 and helping the nation recover. SHM is pleased to offer our support of the reintroduction of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act and stands ready to support its passage. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Scheurer MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Danielle Scheurer, MD, MSCR, SFHM
President, Society of Hospital Medicine