

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.158

Senator Runestad offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to enact the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

3 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly strained the United
4 States' healthcare system. Hard hit areas have seen the number of
5 patients surge and healthcare workers pushed to their limits. The
6 crisis has exacerbated the nation's shortage of healthcare workers,
7 particularly in rural areas; and

8 Whereas, Immigrant healthcare workers have long been a vital
9 part of our nation's healthcare workforce but face restrictions on
10 where they can practice. These doctors and nurses often fill posts
11 in rural areas or jobs that would otherwise remain empty. However,
12 those on H-1B visas face geographic restrictions and risk their
13 immigration status if they practice outside of their local area;

1 and

2 Whereas, The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act would provide
3 critical support to our nation's healthcare system and improve our
4 ability to combat the Pandemic by allowing more immigrant
5 healthcare workers to practice in the United States. The bill would
6 allocate up to 40,000 unused employment-based green cards from
7 previous years to doctors and nurses. Workers granted green cards
8 under the act would not be subject to geographic limitations and
9 would be able to practice wherever they are needed; and

10 Whereas, The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act would also
11 allow these critical healthcare workers a reprieve from immigration
12 backlogs preventing them from receiving a green card. Since the act
13 would give green cards without regard to per-country caps, doctors
14 and nurses could avoid a years- or decades-long wait for one to
15 become available; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of
17 the United States to enact the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act;
18 and be it further

19 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
20 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
21 President of the United States Senate, and the members of the
22 Michigan congressional delegation.