

Expanding Rural Healthcare Act

THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE RAISES HEALTHCARE COSTS AND HARMS AMERICANS' HEALTH



Covid made it clear that more physicians are needed

Driven by a lack of primary care physicians, the shortage could exceed 100,000 by 2030



Rural areas need more access to physicians

Compared to urban areas, rural areas have 1/10th the specialists per capita and fewer primary care physicians



Even doctors who trained or practiced in developed countries must repeat their residencies to work in America

The federal government doesn't fund enough residencies, so U.S. trained physicians alone cannot fix the shortage

INCENTIVES MATTER



A federal visa allows international physicians to practice in America if they provide primary care in underserved areas, but states' costly residency requirements limit the program's use

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STATES CAN REMOVE LEGISLATIVE BARRIERS TO ATTRACTING HIGH-QUALITY PHYSICIANS

The Expanding Rural Healthcare Act allows regulators to waive U.S. residency requirements for certain internationally-trained physicians who meet state quality and safety standards



Regulators can follow the **successful international physician evaluation systems** in Canada, Australia, and the UK



Regulators would have the freedom to **recognize high-quality programs** in countries such as Switzerland, Ireland, and Israel

Increase access to care | Address health disparities | Ensure high-quality standards

Internationally trained physicians are disproportionately likely to work in low-income and rural communities

More than 247,000 doctors, one-quarter of all U.S. doctors, earned their medical degrees abroad



In areas where the average annual income is below \$15,000, 43% of all doctors come from abroad

BOTTOM LINE
States can improve rural healthcare and fix worsening physician shortages by allowing skilled internationally-trained physicians to work