

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 2012

Dear Colleague:

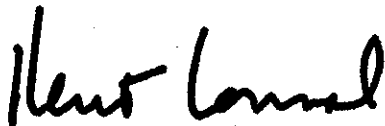
We write to urge you to co-sponsor S. 1979, the Conrad State 30 Improvement Act. Since its inception in 1994, the Conrad 30 Program has brought over 9,000 doctors to rural and underserved communities in all 50 states. S. 1979 will reauthorize this successful program, and make several significant improvements as well.

The Conrad 30 Program permits each state to sponsor up to 30 foreign-born, American-trained doctors to practice in medically underserved areas. In exchange for at least three years of service in these communities, the program allows for the waiver of certain visa requirements to enhance these doctors' ability to more quickly pursue permanent residency, without raising annual green card caps. This program has been instrumental in attracting hundreds of doctors each year to practice in communities that have the most difficulty in finding qualified doctors. Studies indicate that one doctor can add more than 20 jobs and over \$1 million in economic activity to a rural community.

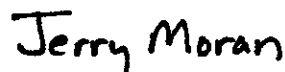
In addition to reauthorizing the Conrad 30 Program, S. 1979 would expand health care access by allowing H-1B doctors, in addition to J-1 visa doctors, to be eligible for participation in the program. This would increase the number of qualified doctors available to provide care in underserved areas. As participants, these H-1B doctors would be exempted from H-1B caps. Additionally, S.1979 improves the Conrad 30 Program by protecting foreign doctors from potential abusive practices by employers, and for the first time, provides a way for the number of waiver slots available to states to increase.

The Conrad 30 Program is a popular program that has successfully expanded access to quality health care for Americans in every state for almost two decades. We ask that you join us in extending and improving this important program. If you would like to co-sponsor S. 1979 or have questions, please contact Justin Schardin in Senator Conrad's office at 224-1895, or Darby O'Donnell in Senator Moran's office at 228-6973.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD  
United States Senate



JERRY MORAN  
United States Senate