



February 8, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

It is with great concern and respect that I am writing to share some of the unintended effects the recent Executive Order regarding immigration has had on our organization. Family Physicians Inquiries Network (FPIN) is a well-respected, national nonprofit association in this country that is committed to improving patient care through the translation of medical research. And, in the pursuit of this mission, we have seen first-hand the talents brought to America by family physicians, medical students, and residents from all around the world. Ceasing to uphold our historic position to welcome talented minds, brilliant doctors, and learners from abroad will deteriorate our progress and have a marked impact on our work and our vision.

As a community, we do not come to you with any political bias, but instead, feel compelled to share with you the unplanned impact this Executive Order will have on our professional work and the primary care workforce in the United States, and more personally, on our community. Albeit for 90 days, it could be the most important 90 days in someone's life. This is the case with one of our Syrian faculty members who was trained in the U.S. and is suddenly facing a life-threatening illness himself, but is now unable to visit his family in his home country for fear of not being able to re-enter the United States. ***There are many stories just like this that will likely go unheard, but are meaningful and important nonetheless.***

The Executive Order will:

- Adversely affect the health of our people by further diminishing a number of primary care doctors, which we cannot afford as there is already a deficit of 8,200.
- Significantly reduce the number of primary care clinicians caring for the communities of our country, which will only worsen the expected physician shortage trajectory in the future. According to a 2016 report by the American Medical Colleges, our country will be facing a shortfall of nearly 100k physicians by 2025 – of which 1/3 will be primary care doctors.
- Negatively affect our ability to recruit talented clinicians. It is our understanding that 8,400 doctors come from two of the countries listed in the January 27th Executive Order (Iran and Syria) alone.

In addition, we believe the recent Executive Order will negate our professional efforts to translate research into clinical practice, decrease the intellectual capacity we have in our medical communities, and in the long term, give ALL immigrants a sense of being at risk and unwelcome in the U.S. because of the sudden nature of this order. This will drastically impact the primary care workforce in many complex and critical ways, which will have lasting effects on the health and wellbeing of our patients and the medical education system in America. With that being said, our organization is empathetic to the concerns you have regarding safety and terrorism – these are certainly issues that everyone around the globe is sensitive to today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LuShawna Romeo', written in a cursive style.

LuShawna Romeo
Executive Director, FPIN
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573-256-2066