



**RESOLUTIONS OF THE
BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES
AND
FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH
September 29, 2020**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (the “Department”) has published a proposed rule which would eliminate “duration of status” as an authorized period of stay for certain nonimmigrant visas (F, I, and J);

WHEREAS, more than 12,000 J-1 physicians training in the United States form an essential part of the U.S. health care system as they provide supervised patient care at nearly 750 teaching hospitals in 51 states and provinces;

WHEREAS, training programs in the United States last from one to seven years, depending on the medical specialty or subspecialty;

WHEREAS, the current duration of status regulation allows J-1 physicians to extend their authorized stay in the United States for subsequent years of training at the same time that they renew their visa sponsorship annually with ECFMG|FAIMER;

WHEREAS, the Department’s proposed rule change would replace “duration of status” with a specific end date tied to the J-1 physician’s contract term and the additional requirement to apply through the U.S. government each year to extend this end date;

WHEREAS, the current published processing time for such an extension application, which would recur annually, ranges from five to 19 months creating an impossible timeline which could render J-1 physicians unable to continue in their training programs on July 1 each year; and

WHEREAS, ECFMG|FAIMER has served as the sole sponsor of J-1 Visas for physicians for nearly 50 years and is in a unique leadership position to advocate for an exemption to the proposed rule change for J-1 physicians;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE:

RESOLVED, the Department’s proposed rule change, if adopted, would impede the participation of J-1 physicians in training programs, creating an immediate and adverse impact on the delivery of health care in the United States.

RESOLVED, that the members of the ECFMG and FAIMER Boards of Trustees recommend in the strongest terms that physicians be exempted from the proposed rule change to eliminate “duration of status” as an authorized period of stay for J-1 Visas.



RESOLVED, the members of the ECFMG and FAIMER Boards of Trustees call on the health care community to mobilize in response to ensure the Department retracts the proposed rule change for J-1 physicians and ensures a strong frontline health policy.

RESOLVED, that an executed copy of these resolutions shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Boards of Trustees of ECFMG and FAIMER.

Approved by the ECFMG and FAIMER Boards, September 29, 2020