

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4477

To facilitate the expedited review of applications of aliens applying for admission to the United States under section 101(a)(15)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act who are coming to the United States to participate in a program under which they will receive graduate medical education or training, require the Secretary of State to provide relevant Foreign Service officers with training regarding such aliens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. EMMER, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To facilitate the expedited review of applications of aliens applying for admission to the United States under section 101(a)(15)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act who are coming to the United States to participate in a program under which they will receive graduate medical education or training, require the Secretary of State to provide relevant Foreign Service officers with training regarding such aliens, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Grant Residency for
3 Additional Doctors Act of 2021” or the “GRAD Act of
4 2021”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Physicians who are foreign-trained or inter-
8 national medical graduates, most of whom are not
9 United States citizens, comprise almost one-quarter
10 of active physicians.

11 (2) Foreign-trained physicians who are not
12 United States citizens and are not lawful permanent
13 residents provide critical health care services and
14 supply labor for the physician shortages, particularly
15 in rural communities.

16 (3) The COVID–19 pandemic has increased the
17 demands on physicians and exacerbated the physi-
18 cian workforce shortage facing the United States,
19 with projections estimating a shortage of over
20 120,000 physicians by 2032.

21 (4) The pandemic has contributed to delays in
22 processing visa applicants, resulting in missed edu-
23 cational and economic opportunities.

24 (5) Delays in visa processing can impact med-
25 ical training and impose hardships on both prospec-

1 tive doctors and the American medical institutions
2 at which they seek to learn.

3 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITED REVIEW OF CERTAIN J-1 VISAS AND**
4 **TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

5 (a) EXPEDITED REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of State shall designate an officer or employee of the De-
8 partment of State whose sole responsibility during the
9 months of March, April, May, June, and any other period
10 of time as determined appropriate by the Secretary, shall
11 be to facilitate the expedited review of applications of
12 aliens applying for admission to the United States under
13 section 101(a)(15)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality
14 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(J)) who are coming to the
15 United States to participate in a program under which
16 such aliens will receive graduate medical education or
17 training.

18 (b) TRAINING.—Beginning not later than 180 days
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
20 State shall provide to relevant Foreign Service officers
21 training related to medical graduates and medical grad-
22 uate programs in the countries in which such officers are
23 serving. Such training shall be part of the training pro-

- 1 vided to such officers under section 701 of the Foreign
- 2 Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4021).

○