

Joint Statement Opposing June 22 Executive Order Suspending Immigration

Executive Order Suspending Immigration Could Compromise Health Care System

As organizations representing medical professionals who are working tirelessly to help patients across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are extremely worried about the potential impact of the executive order to suspend immigration that was announced by President Trump on June 22. At this moment as a country we should be doing whatever we can to strengthen and improve our health care system and its workers. This order destabilizes and potentially threatens the ability for health care professionals to come to the United States to help us in our efforts. Non-citizen professionals are a lynchpin in the delivery of health care in the United States.

While the order specifies that there are exceptions for some health care workers and some scientists who are working on COVID-19 related projects, those exceptions may not be broad enough. They do not allow for physicians, nurses, or other professionals who may come to work in another area of health care, thereby allowing for a U.S. born worker who would have needed to perform that job to help with the COVID-19 effort. The order also does not address what will be done for the families of those who are excepted from the suspension. The stress of facing a potential separation from family members is untenable at this time when those working in health care or research are already under tremendous pressure.

We call on President Trump and his administration to immediately withdraw this order. Our focus now, as a nation, should be to implement strategies and measures that will help us fight this virus and move toward recovery. This order is an ineffective and potentially damaging barrier to that effort.

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Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Board of Internal Medicine
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
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