

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4637

To increase by 5 the number of flex waivers available in each State for J–1 nonimmigrants and to establish a secondary physician match portal to assist alien physicians who are unable to find employment in their preferred State of residence to find employment in another State.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2026

Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To increase by 5 the number of flex waivers available in each State for J–1 nonimmigrants and to establish a secondary physician match portal to assist alien physicians who are unable to find employment in their preferred State of residence to find employment in another State.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Conrad 30 Physician
5 Workforce Optimization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FLEX**
 2 **WAIVER ALLOWANCE SLOTS IN EACH STATE.**

3 Section 214(l)(1)(D)(ii) of the Immigration and Na-
 4 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)(1)(D)(ii)) is amended by
 5 striking “10” and inserting “15”.

6 **SEC. 3. SECONDARY PHYSICIAN MATCH PORTAL.**

7 Section 214(l) of the Immigration and Nationality
 8 Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)) is amended by adding at the end
 9 the following:

10 “(4)(A) The Director of U.S. Citizenship and
 11 Immigration Services, after consultation with the
 12 heads of a representative sample of State Depart-
 13 ments of Public Health, shall establish a portal for
 14 alien physicians who—

15 “(i) have been granted the status of a non-
 16 immigrant described in section
 17 101(a)(15)(J)(i);

18 “(ii)(I) have applied for a waiver of the 2-
 19 year foreign residence requirement under sec-
 20 tion 212(e), but were not selected by the State
 21 to which they submitted their application; or

22 “(II) have sought to apply for a waiver of
 23 the 2-year foreign residence requirement under
 24 section 212(e), but were unable to submit an
 25 application because the State’s numerical cap
 26 had been reached, or applications were other-

1 wise not accepted at the time of the attempted
2 submission; and

3 “(iii) request to be included in such portal.

4 “(B) Any State, or any employer located in
5 such State, that has not filled all of its allotted waiv-
6 ers under paragraph (1)(B) for the current fiscal
7 year may use the portal established pursuant to sub-
8 paragraph (A) to access information about the cre-
9 dentials of potential alien physicians who may be in-
10 terested in obtaining full-time employment as a pri-
11 mary care or specialty care provider in such State.

12 “(C) Information about international medical
13 graduates who request to be included in the portal
14 established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be
15 included on an attestation form that is sent to an
16 organizing body to facilitate the dissemination of
17 such information to States with available waivers.

18 “(D) The Director shall establish a secondary
19 match period, not to exceed 60 days, during which
20 employers in States with available waivers for the
21 current fiscal year can review and interview alien
22 physicians included in the portal before March 1st of
23 such fiscal year.

24 “(E)(i) The portal shall contain essential infor-
25 mation contained in the alien physicians initial appli-

1 cation to streamline the secondary application proc-
2 ess for potential employers.

3 “(ii) Employers participating in the secondary
4 application process shall certify that—

5 “(I)(aa) their facilities are located in a
6 health professional shortage area or in a medi-
7 cally underserved area; or

8 “(bb) they are seeking an applicable flex
9 waiver under section 214(l)(1)(D)(ii); and

10 “(II) they have unsuccessfully advertised
11 the position for which the alien physician will be
12 hired.

13 “(iii) State departments of public health and
14 prospective employers shall be provided access to the
15 portal in order to identify potential alien physicians.

16 “(F) The Director, after consultation with a
17 representative sample of State departments of health
18 or related agencies, shall publish a set of best prac-
19 tices and core application requirements that—

20 “(i) assist States in determining the suffi-
21 ciency of waiver applications submitted for the
22 secondary match; and

23 “(ii) include the essential elements nec-
24 essary to establish sufficiency and ensure a

- 1 streamlined process for the secondary match
- 2 applications.”.

