

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6018

A RESOLUTION urging implementation of the Conrad 20 rule in Kansas.

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas currently is not participating in the Conrad 20 rule, which allows physicians who trained in the United States under J-1 visas to remain in the United States without having to leave the country to fulfill the two-year home rule stipulated under J-1 visa regulations; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has recently stopped providing national interest waivers for J-1 physicians willing to practice in health care provider shortage areas; and

WHEREAS, As a consequence Kansans are likely to experience further limitations in access to primary care physicians in medically underserved areas of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Department of Health and Environment data show that 62 counties in Kansas are designated as provider shortage areas and 19 of those counties would be adversely affected due to the lack of sponsorship of a physician by an interested government agency; and

WHEREAS, The entire state of Kansas is critically underserved for pediatric care; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of the Conrad 20 rule would allow, in addition to improving the shortage in rural areas of primary care physicians, for recruitment of pediatric subspecialties who are in short supply in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, It is believed the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can relatively easily and expeditiously set forth regulations to implement and administer this program: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we urge the Governor and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to act to allow the State of Kansas to participate in the Conrad 20 rule thus allowing physicians trained in this country to practice their profession in Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Governor and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

House Resolution No. 6018 was sponsored by Representative Doug Gatewood.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.