



WISCONSIN ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Statement on Assembly Bill 954 and Senate Bill 900 (Relating to: provisional licenses to practice medicine and surgery for internationally trained physicians and physician assistants and granting rule-making authority.)

The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) recognizes that there is a shortage of practicing physicians in our state. As such, we wholeheartedly support attracting international medical school graduates to relocate to our state to provide medical care to our residents, as well as visitors. However, due to the varying systems of physician education in foreign countries, we feel that it is critically important that international medical school graduates who seek to practice medicine in Wisconsin should meet the same residency requirements as individuals who graduate from medical schools located in the United States. As an alternative to AB954 and SB900, we suggest that the federal government increases graduate medical education (GME) funding, which has been capped for a number of years. Raising this funding will allow hospitals to increase the number of slots for residents.