

## Pete Van Runkle

---

**From:** Dana Ritchie <dritchie@ahca.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 2, 2021 12:22 PM  
**Cc:** Christopher Donnellan; Dana Ritchie  
**Subject:** Workforce Related Efforts/Policies  
**Attachments:** The Honorable Antony Blinken Letter - 7-27-2021-.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good day, State Executives --

Please find below some workforce related efforts/updates that we wanted to share we thought you would find of interest.

- **AHCA/NCAL Applauds Re-Intro of the Workforce for and Expanding Economy Act:** Rep. Lloyd Smucker [R-PA-11] recently re-introduced the Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act (H.R. 4288). This legislation will help various sectors, including long term care, who currently have no visa program that allows them to legally hire year-round temporary workers — while the agriculture and high-skilled industries in our economy have access to their own programs. H.R. 4288 has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Oversight and Reform. There is currently not a Senate companion. It is supported by the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition (EWIC), of which AHCA/NCAL is an active member of. More on this bill can be found in the [EWIC statement](#).

[Legislation would create new visa classification to address senior living workforce shortages - News - McKnight's Senior Living \(mcknightsseniorliving.com\)](#) **We/the EWIC is looking for a Dem sponsor for this bill.**

- Next, attached is an AHCA/NCAL letter to the U.S. Department of State we sent last week regarding the Immigrant Visa Prioritization update issued by the Department on April 30, 2021. This guidance placed nurses and other skilled healthcare professionals in the lowest priority tier for the visa authorization process for entry into the United States. This categorization is causing significant delays of entry into the United States for a desperately needed population of foreign-trained immigrant health care workers and nurses. The letter asks to amend the Immigrant Visa Prioritization update and prioritize the entry of foreign-trained nurses and health care workers into the United States, we could significantly accelerate the timeline under which these health care professionals could enter the country.

Thanks –

Dana Ritchie, CAE  
Senior Director of NFP & Constituent Services  
American Health Care Association (AHCA)  
202-898-2822  
[dritchie@ahca.org](mailto:dritchie@ahca.org)



[Registration](#) is Now Open | Washington, DC, Held at National Harbor

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd.**