



# American Society of Echocardiography

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lawler  
466 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maria Elvira Salazar  
2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke  
2058 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Lawler, Bishop, Salazar, and Clarke:

On behalf of the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), I write to express our support for the H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act (H.R. 7961). This bipartisan legislation would exempt physicians and other health care workers from the \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa petitions imposed by the September 2025 Presidential Proclamation, and would prohibit new H-1B fees on health care workers beyond those already established under existing immigration law. ASE urges Congress to act swiftly to pass this important measure.

Last fall, ASE joined more than 50 medical societies in signing a [coalition letter](#) to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expressing opposition to the \$100,000 H-1B fee and urging the Administration to exempt physicians from the Proclamation. While we were encouraged by the bipartisan letter organized by Representatives Lawler and Clarke garnering the support of 100 Members of Congress, legislation is now necessary to provide stability for the health care workforce.

The DHS policy change poses a serious threat to health care delivery across the country, with particular impact on specialty physicians such as echocardiographers. International medical graduates account for nearly one in four practicing physicians in the United States, and they disproportionately serve rural and medically underserved communities. A \$100,000 fee on each new H-1B petition makes it expensive for hospitals, academic medical centers, and community practices to recruit the specialty physicians they need. For subspecialties like echocardiography, where physicians are already stretched thin, this fee threatens to decrease the workforce at a time when demand for cardiovascular imaging continues to grow. Without action, patients in underserved areas face longer wait times and reduced access to essential cardiovascular care.

We thank you for your bipartisan leadership in protecting the health care workforce and the patients who depend on it. If the Society can ever serve as a resource, please reach out to Katherine Stark, ASE Director of Advocacy, at [kstark@asecho.org](mailto:kstark@asecho.org).

Sincerely,

David Wiener, MD, FASE  
President, American Society of Echocardiography