



Current Status

While we are all frustrated with the lack of the final passage of our Bill, it is important to remember that the past year shows significant progress on the ultimate success. Let me point out a few things and also remind everyone that the passage of any legislation is a difficult and complicated task, particularly in this incredibly difficult legislative climate - [Look no further than struggles of passage of the Economic Bailout/Rescue Bill].

First: **WE HAVE A BILL** - in the past year, we have a very good piece of legislation filed – one filled with important, practical and positive solutions for our industry; as well as other pieces to making the Bill palatable to domestic nursing and brain drain objections.

Second: We have multiple sponsors from both sides of the aisle including House members who represent the CHC, the Anti Immigration contingent, as well as a good part of the House Judiciary Committee and the State of Florida.

Third: The Bill has succeeded in its first hearing and cleared the subcommittee (with no amendments!) and is pending full Judiciary Committee review.

Fourth: We have made significant progress in reducing our solution from being perceived as "immigration" solution and convincing House members understand that this is really a healthcare issue.

Fifth: We have partnered and collaborated with the AHA [Bruce Morrison and Carla Luggiero] and they have been extraordinarily helpful throughout the entire legislative process, including the intense lobbying of individual members, attending the stakeholder meetings and in gathering and sharing intelligence. Moreover, I am sure that the AHA continue with their strong support in getting this resolved.

Sixth: The Senate is aware of our need and attempted to attach their version of HR 5924 with an actual improvement (unused visas rolled over) to the Iraqi Supplemental. It was removed in Conference for about the same reasons our amendment was taken off the Labor H appropriations bill last fall. Our champions in the Senate are still our champions and looking for opportunities.

So, yes, while we have not crossed the goal line, we **HAVE** made significant progress.

So, where do we go from here??

Most recent information strongly indicates will be a limited session of Congress after the presidential election ["Lame Duck Session"]. With this in mind, what can we do to encourage our champions to get the nurse legislation on a bill?

Over the past weeks, we have spoken innumerable times with our lobbyists and are scheduling meetings with the major players in both the House and Senate – House leadership staff (Pelosi,

Lofgren, Conyers) and Hutchinson's and Schumer's staff in the Senate. The purpose of these meetings is to, once again, instill a sense of urgency in the leaders and our champions, and to gather information and to assess the path for our success. These meetings are presently being scheduled for next Tuesday and Wednesday.

After these meetings we should be in a better position to analyze and prepare strategy as to our efforts. To that end, we would like to schedule a Conference call for Monday, October 13, 2008. Time and dial information will be provided.