



September 28, 2009

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Hoyer,

Thank you for your support of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI). AAPI is in its 28th year and has over 15,000 members, making it one of the largest ethnic medical associations in the country.

The ongoing discussion of health insurance reform is centered on quality of health care delivery, access, and cost. We believe this should include a commitment to increase the number of licensed physicians in the U.S. Unfortunately, more than 16,000 qualified physicians were unable to begin their medical residencies last year due to a shortage of available positions.

That is why AAPI supports the “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2009,” (H.R. 2251, S. 973). This legislation distributes residency slots to hospitals of need and increases overall residency positions by 15%. With an aging population and the need to cover our nation’s uninsured, we have an ever-increasing need for more physicians, and an increase in residency positions today will enable us to train these future doctors.

On behalf of AAPI’s 15,000 members, I urge you to ensure the inclusion of H.R. 2251 in the health insurance reform bill to be voted on by Congress. I respectfully request the opportunity to have AAPI members meet with you to discuss this issue.

Thank you once again for your support of AAPI.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vinod K. Shah
AAPI President