

GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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GNYHA STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN NEW YORK CITY

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Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) strongly supports Mayor Eric Adams' request that the Biden Administration 1) redesignate temporary protected status to new countries, which would allow immigrants from those places to work immediately, and 2) expedite work authorization approvals via executive order.

Health care facilities in New York and across the U.S. are grappling with current and projected major shortages of physicians, nurses, home health care workers and other health care personnel. For example, the [American Association of Medical Colleges \(AAMC\) predicts a shortage](#) of as many as 122,000 physicians by 2032; [the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates there will be nearly 195,000 openings for registered nurses on average each year between 2020 and 2030](#); and the consulting firm Mercer [forecasted that by 2025, the U.S. will have a shortage of more than 400,000 home health aides](#).

Since April 2022, New York City has supported more than 100,000 asylum seekers. GNYHA is interested in determining if any of these individuals are health care professionals (HCPs). If so, they could be helpful in addressing some of the current health care workforce shortages in the New York City region. For such individuals, GNYHA can help facilitate pathways to their licensure and employment.

Critical to this effort is work authorization. Typically, non-U.S. citizens must obtain "green cards" or visas to work in the U.S., but the number of such visas is capped annually and there can be significant waiting times for them. The wait time for visa availability varies based on the applicant's country of origin and the demand for employment-based visas from that country. Current wait times range from one to five+ years.

In this time of humanitarian crisis in New York City, Mayor Adams' proposal would be extremely helpful in the near term. GNYHA urges the Biden Administration to swiftly approve it.



GNYHA is a dynamic, constantly evolving center for health care advocacy and expertise, but our core mission—helping hospitals deliver the finest patient care in the most cost-effective way—never changes.