Intealth™
Advancing the Global Health Workforce

ECFMG FAIMER

Visa Policy Changes and Impacts on International Medical Graduates

Tracy Wallowicz, MLS
SVP, Regulatory Affairs & Chief Communications Officer

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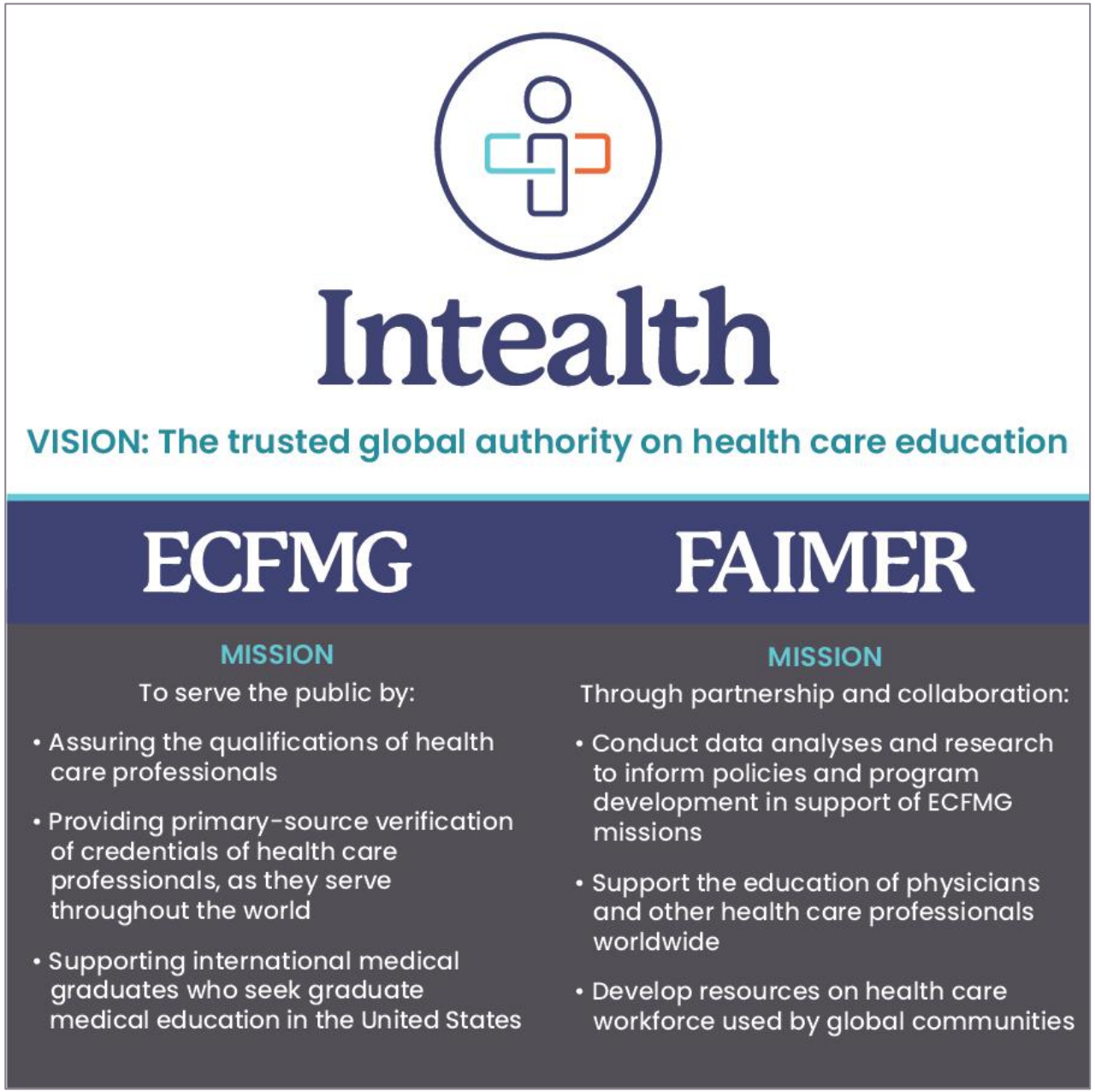
About Intealth

- **Announced in late 2021**
- **Introduced a new corporate identity** supporting the global health workforce and representing our divisions, ECFMG and FAIMER
- **Integrates the expertise and resources** of ECFMG and FAIMER under one strategic framework
- **Establishes a strong foundation** for continued growth and diversification
- **Enhances our ability** to meet the evolving needs of stakeholders worldwide

About Intealth

- Unites ECFMG and FAIMER under a common ***Vision***
- ***Missions*** aligned to create powerful synergies
- As divisions of Intealth, ECFMG and FAIMER remain distinct, nonprofit organizations and retain their portfolios of services



Overview

- The U.S. healthcare system currently cannot function without international medical graduates (IMGs)
- 1 in 4 physicians in practicing in the United States is an IMG (this includes U.S. IMGs)
- Nearly a third (1 in 3) of practicing physicians in the United States came from abroad to train in the US (17%) or they are the child of an immigrant (13%)

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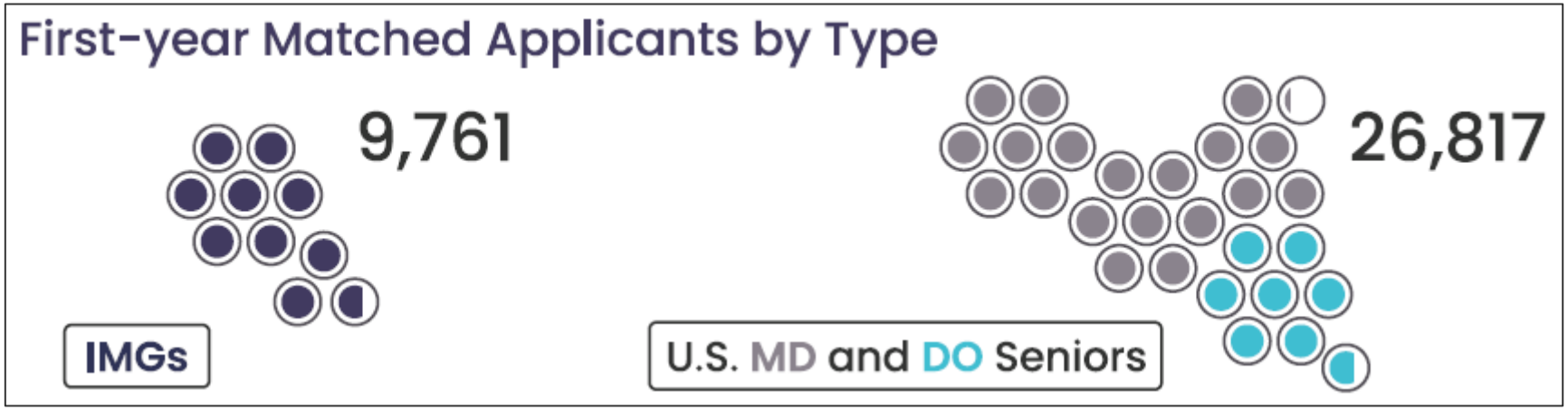
2025 Match



Internal Medicine

10,941 positions offered (758 programs)

- US MD grads: 3,782 (34.6%)
- US DO grads: 1,882 (17.2%)
- US IMGs: 1,145 (10.5%)
- Non-US IMGs: 3,573 (32.7%)

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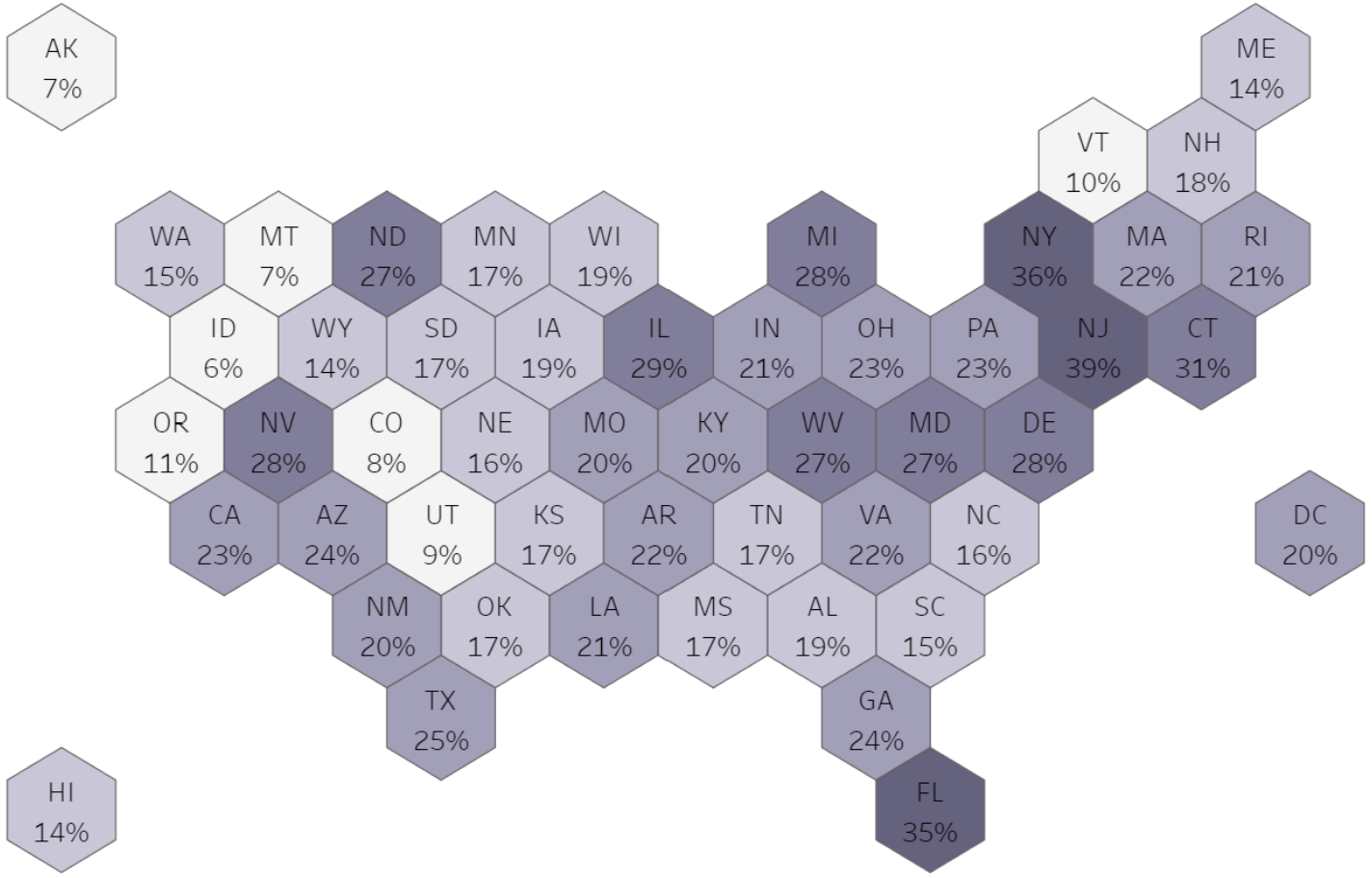
IMGs in Active Practice by State



	% IMG
All Active Physicians	24%
Idaho (min)	6%
New Jersey (max)	39%

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RECENT ISSUES

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Context: Visa vs. Visa Status

Understanding this distinction is critical as we navigate recent and expected immigration actions.

- Visa = permits entry to the U.S.; *can expire while still lawfully present*
- Visa Status = allows an individual to **live, train, or work** in the U.S.; *must stay valid the entire time*

This difference matters — especially amid increased vetting, shifting policies, and visa appointment delays.

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May 2025 Appointment Pause: Social Media Vetting

What Happened

- On May 27, 2025, the U.S. Department of State initiated a pause in visa processing while implementing new security review procedures.
- The pause primarily impacted nonimmigrant visa applicants, including J-1 physicians in the Exchange Visitor Program.
- Applicants were unable to schedule new appointments; some experienced unexpected cancellations and reschedulings.

IMPORTANT: Appointments resumed on June 18, 2025, with a directive to consular posts to prioritize J-1 physicians.

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Best Practices for Social Media Activities

Immigration agencies request information regarding **personal social media accounts**

This includes all accounts used in the **last 5 years**

Ask.FM, Douban, Facebook, Flickr, Google+, Instagram, LinkedIn, MySpace, Pinterest, QZone (QQ), Reddit, Sina Weibo, Tencent Weibo, Tumblr, Twitter, Twoo, Vine, VKontakte (VK), Youku, YouTube

Advise trainees to be conscious and thoughtful of information they post on social media, particularly regarding their **political views**

Immigration officials are **likely able to view their full profile and contacts** regardless of access to password

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June 2025 Presidential Proclamation: Travel Ban / Restrictions

Tier 1 Full suspension of entry: all citizens barred from entering the United States	Tier 2 Partial suspension of entry: citizens seeking certain visa classifications, including J-1, barred from entering the United States
Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen	Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela

Exemptions:

- U.S. lawful permanent residents (green card holders)
- Individuals with valid visas issued prior to the proclamation
- Dual nationals traveling on a passport from a non-designated country
- **Certain individuals traveling on diplomatic or humanitarian grounds**

Intealth sponsoring 117 initial applicants from "travel ban" countries this year.
More than half had their visas before the ban took effect on June 9.

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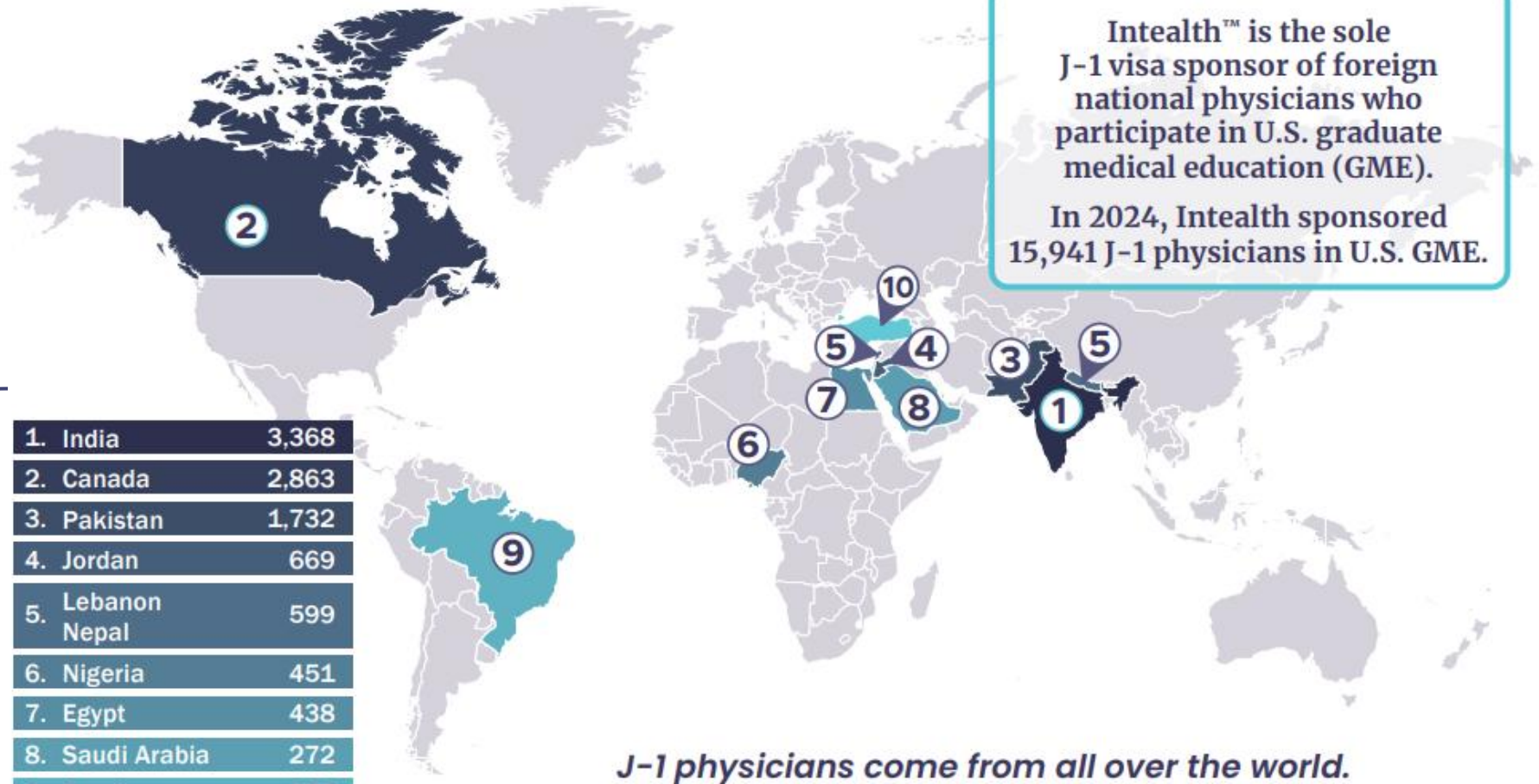
J-1 Physicians' Top Nations of Origin



None are "travel ban" countries.

1.	India	3,368
2.	Canada	2,863
3.	Pakistan	1,732
4.	Jordan	669
5.	Lebanon Nepal	599
6.	Nigeria	451
7.	Egypt	438
8.	Saudi Arabia	272
9.	Brazil	252
10.	Turkey	240

J-1 physicians come from all over the world. In 2024, they represented about 155 home countries.

Source: Intealth database. Data current as of January 12, 2025.
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Duration of Status

- Reemergence of an issue first introduced by the previous Trump administration in 2020
- Would significantly modify admission and extension procedures for nonimmigrant students, exchange visitors, and foreign media representatives
- Goal is to replace *Duration of Status (D/S)* with fixed time periods for admission
- Comment period closed September 29, 2025

*"Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, **Exchange Visitors**, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media"*

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H-1B Presidential Proclamation

Proclamation issued Sept. 19, 2025

Imposes new $100,000 fee for certain H-1B petitions filed on/after Sept. 21, 2025

Does not apply to*:*

- Physicians already in the United States seeking extensions, amendments, or change-of-employer cases
- Physicians already in the United States seeking a change of status from another visa classification (e.g., J-1 to H-1B)

Does apply to:

- Physicians seeking to enter the United States in H-1B status
  - *Employers must cover fee; cannot shift to physicians*

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INTEALTH APPROACH TO ADVOCACY

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Washington Outreach Goals

Educate	Identify	Build
Educate Policymakers about the Problem(s) and the Value of IMGs	Identify Champions	Build Long-term Bipartisan Support

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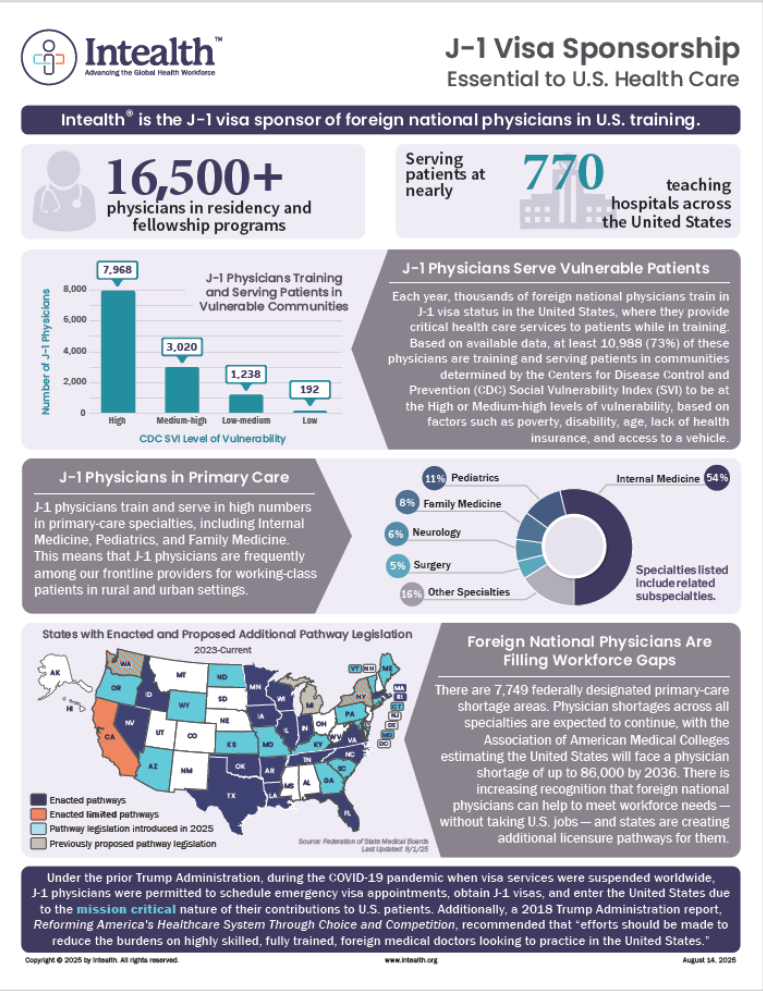
Outreach Key Tenets



1. Like the Administration, Intealth believes in the importance of screening and vetting visitors to the United States
   - Intealth has a robust process in place for physicians
2. Issues that we addressing are HEALTH CARE, not immigration, issues.
3. IMGs do not take positions / jobs away from U.S. citizens; there is significant projected workforce shortage in the United States.
4. Many states have passed or are considering laws that would make it easier for IMGs to contribute in those states.

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