



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 22, 2021

The Honorable
Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff:

Thank you for your November 8 letter to Secretary Blinken regarding increased wait times for visa processing for healthcare workers. Please be assured that the Department of State is committed to helping our communities combat COVID-19 and continues to work closely with overseas immigrant visa processing posts to prioritize visa processing for healthcare workers.

In addition to existing visa prioritization guidance, the Department has directed our top healthcare worker visa processing posts to prioritize the processing of healthcare worker visas over other categories. We understand the urgency of this issue and are expediting the processing of healthcare worker visas by significantly increasing appointment availability for all E3 visas. Please keep in mind that visa interview appointment scheduling is generally done months in advance, so most of the changes made now will not be apparent until December. The Department expects that by the end of January 2022 our posts will have adjudicated at least 4,500 healthcare worker visas in December and January alone. The Department stands ready to assist our communities to combat COVID-19 and to help ensure that these healthcare workers are able to help where they are most needed.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Naz Durakoglu
Senior Bureau Official
Bureau of Legislative Affairs