

October 6, 2003

The Honorable Anne B. Pope
Federal Co-Chairman
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20235

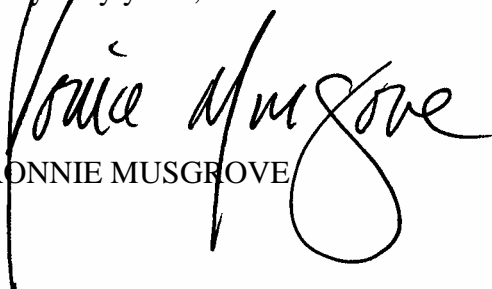
Dear Ms. Pope:

Thank you for giving states within the Appalachian Region the opportunity to employ additional physicians through the J-1 Visa Program. As you know, Mississippi has many medically underserved areas.

On behalf of the State of Mississippi and Choctaw County Medical Center located in Ackerman (Choctaw County), Mississippi, I am requesting the Federal Co-Chairman to act as an interested governmental agency in seeking a waiver of the J-1 Visa foreign residence requirement for Dr. Basharat Hussain. The facility is seeking to employ Dr. Hussain as a Family Practitioner for three years in Choctaw County, Mississippi.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,


RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/ws