

July 21, 2003

The Honorable Anne Pope
Federal Co-Chairman
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW
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 Trace Regional Hospital, which has a primary care clinic in Vardaman (Calhoun 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. Jaime Castillo. The facility is seeking to employ Dr. Costillo as an Internist for three (3) years in Calhoun County, Mississippi.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/ws