

April 3, 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 North Mississippi Medical Clinics, Inc., I am requesting the Federal Co-Chairman to act as an interested government agency in seeking a waiver of the J-1 Visa foreign residence requirement for Dr. Mirko Villanueva. North Mississippi Medical Clinics, Inc. is located in Calhoun City, Calhoun County, Mississippi, and plans to employ Dr. Villanueva to work as an Internist for four years.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



RONNIE MUSGROVE