**From:** Texas Medical Association [mailto:tmainfo@texmed.org]
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 10:54 AM
**To:** Debra Heater
**Subject:** TMA Wins Repeal of Bad IMG Law

Legislative wins are only half the story.

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| **June 27, 2013** |
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| Dear Debra Heater: **Good news on the legislative front**: Texas law no longer requires international medical graduates (IMGs) who are not citizens or legal, permanent U.S. residents to practice three years in a medically underserved area of the state. At the 11th hour of the recent regular state legislative session, the Texas Medical Association’s advocacy staff managed to attach a “repealer” amendment to Senate Bill 949 by Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound). The amendment repeals the section of the Occupations Code that contained the three-year practice requirement, which the 2011 legislature had put into place. The TMA IMG Section believed the law deterred IMG physicians from choosing to practice in Texas. At the section’s request, TMA Vice President of Public Affairs Darren Whitehurst and his advocacy staff worked many hours at the Capitol lobbying for its repeal. After many delays, the amended SB 949 passed on the last day of the regular session. This is just one example of how TMA continues to prove its value, especially in state and national legal, regulatory, and legislative advocacy. There are many [more](http://TXMA.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0yNDQ2Njg4JnA9MSZ1PTc3NjgwNjIzMyZsaT0xMjY4MjQ0OA/index.html). IMG physicians are important to Texas medicine. You and your colleagues promote diversity, help end health care disparities, and increase Texans’ access to high-quality care. That’s why your membership in TMA is imperative. Only with grassroots support … only with your support … can we continue to do good things for medicine and our patients. Right now is the perfect time to try membership in TMA. [**Join before July 31**](http://TXMA.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0yNDQ2Njg4JnA9MSZ1PTc3NjgwNjIzMyZsaT0xMjY4MjQ0OQ/index.html)**and get all the benefits at half the price.** (Use recruitment code **HALF2013**to receive your discount.)**Questions?**Contact TMA Knowledge Center at (800) 880-7955 or knowledge@texmed.org. Yours truly,Stephen L. Brotherton, MDPresidentTexas Medical Association |

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