

GATS Mode 4 Negotiations: Issues for Health Care Workers and Health Care Systems
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- WTO's GATS has pushed for liberalization of public sectors, leading to loss of public sector jobs, and displacement of public sector workers, including healthcare workers, forcing economic refugees to seek sustainable livelihoods elsewhere.
- GATS also has a specific article (Mode 4) that focuses on the "movement of natural persons", calling on "liberalization" of policies around people crossing borders to provide services.
- Mode 4 will only provide a temporary migrant status that is tied to employers, and fails to guarantee equal protection for workers, falling short of "Jordan Standard", resulting in a selective control of labor flows around commercial needs, ensuring a pool of cheap, disposable labor, i.e. a "Global Bracero Program".
- Because of shortage of healthcare workers, employers will seek to exercise Mode 4 to bring down current health care workers' wage and health/safety standards, while not providing even essential standards for the migrant workers.
- Mode 4 will perpetuate systemic racism and institutionalize human rights abuses of migrant workers forced to be subject to its program while health care systems will also erode as a result.