

August 22, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

RE: H.R. 6087, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) writes in support of Senate consideration of H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*, which passed the House of Representatives 325-83 on June 7, 2022. This legislation would allow nurse practitioners (NP) and physician assistants (PA) to diagnose, treat, and provide care for federal employees who are injured at work, consistent with state scope of practice. In fact, most states already authorize NPs and PAs to provide this care for non-federal employees.

NRHA is a non-profit membership organization with more than 21,000 members nationwide that provides leadership on rural health issues. Our membership includes every component of rural America's health care, including rural community hospitals, critical access hospitals, doctors, nurses, and patients. We provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.

NRHA is supportive of this legislation as NPs and PAs are common primary care providers in rural communities. According to MedPAC, in 2018 advance practice registered nurses (APRN) and PAs accounted for a third of all primary care clinicians treating Medicare beneficiaries nationwide. In rural communities, their presence is closer to half of the primary care clinicians. Because of the significant presence of NPs and PAs, and the quality of care they provide, NRHA urges swift passage of this legislation. This commonsense bill will ensure increased access to needed services in our rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. If you have questions, please contact Josh Jorgensen (jjorgensen@ruralhealth.us).

Sincerely,



Alan Morgan
Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Health Association