[Date]

[Representative/Senator Name]

[Office Building]

Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Support and Cosponsorship for the CONNECT for Health Act (S. 1261/H.R. 4206)

Dear [Representative/Senator Name],

On behalf of [Hospital/Health System/organization Name], I am writing to urge you to cosponsor the ***Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act*** (S. 1261/H.R. 4206) and support making current Medicare telehealth flexibilities permanent.

[Insert paragraph on your facility/organization and the role it plays in your rural community/area.]

Telehealth has become a critical and indispensable component of our nation’s healthcare system. For communities across [State/District], and particularly for our rural patients, telehealth has bridged significant gaps in care. It provides a vital lifeline that connects patients to primary care, behavioral health services, and specialty care that might otherwise be inaccessible due to distance, travel costs, and provider shortages.

While we are grateful for the temporary extensions Congress has provided, the ongoing uncertainty of short-term patches prevents healthcare providers from making the necessary long-term investments in the technology, infrastructure, and training required to sustain and innovate our telehealth services. This uncertainty stifles our ability to fully integrate virtual care into operations, ultimately creating instability for the patients who have come to rely on these services. To truly leverage the benefits of telehealth to improve health outcomes and efficiency, providers and patients need the certainty of permanent reform.

The bipartisan *CONNECT for Health Act* provides the permanent, forward-thinking solution that providers and patients need. By removing outdated geographic and site-based restrictions, this legislation **will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries, especially those in rural and underserved areas, can continue to access care when and where is needed.**

Further, the *CONNECT for Health Act* improves payment for telehealth services furnished by rural health clinics (RHCs) and federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs). Currently, these critical rural primary care providers do not receive the same reimbursement for telehealth services as in-person services under Medicare, unlike any other provider type. Payment parity will ensure RHCs and FQHCs can make long-term investments in telehealth to serve their rural communities.

At our facility, telehealth has allowed us to [Insert specific anecdote or data point about your hospital/organization if possible]. These successes are at risk without immediate congressional action.

Securing permanent access to telehealth is a crucial step towards a more resilient and equitable healthcare system for rural America. **We strongly urge you to cosponsor the *CONNECT for Health Act* (S. 1261/H.R. 4206) and ensure your constituents do not lose access to this essential mode of care.**

[Your Organization Name] requests the opportunity to meet virtually with you or your staff to discuss this critical issue further. Please contact [Name] at [Email and/or Phone Number] to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

[Insert e-signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Hospital/Health System Name]