



August 5, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: S. 3296, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*

Dear Chairman Paul and Ranking Member Peters,

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) writes in support of Senate passage for S. 3296, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*. 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 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's March 2026 Report to Congress, rural Medicare beneficiaries are significantly more likely to receive primary care from NPs and PAs than their urban counterparts, respectively 28% compared to 16%. 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 important legislation. If you have questions, please contact Reese Lycan (rlycan@ruralhealth.us) or Marguerite Peterseim (mpeterseim@ruralhealth.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Morgan", is written over a light blue, textured background.

Alan Morgan

Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Health Association

RuralHealth.US

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