

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop,

We thank the Subcommittee for its continued support and recognition of rural hospitals as a cornerstone of health care for vulnerable communities across the United States. As it proceeds with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee provide robust funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Hospital Technical Assistance (TA) Program within the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Funding for this program ensures rural hospitals can continue to provide high-quality, cost-effective care to millions of Americans in rural areas.

Rural hospitals are an essential part of the nation's health care infrastructure, providing critical care services to communities where access to medical treatment is limited. Rural hospitals serve some of the most at-risk populations, including the elderly, low-income families, and individuals with chronic conditions. The USDA Rural Hospital TA program has been instrumental in providing technical assistance, training, and resources to help these hospitals overcome financial, operational, and infrastructure challenges. This support has allowed rural hospitals to stay open and deliver vital services to their communities, while implementing cost-saving initiatives and improving patient outcomes.

Each year, rural hospitals face increasing pressure from rising costs, regulatory burdens, and competition from larger urban health systems. The USDA Rural Hospital TA program is a cost-effective way to provide targeted support and resources to ensure rural hospitals are equipped with the tools and expertise they need to deliver high-quality care while remaining financially viable.

We urge the Subcommittee to provide robust funding for the USDA Rural Hospital TA Program in FY 2027. This will allow the program to continue its vital work in supporting rural hospitals, ensuring they can sustain operations, improve care delivery, and maintain their status as the backbone of the rural health safety net. Since its inception, 135 hospitals have received or are

currently undergoing technical assistance through this program, and providing robust funding will ensure additional rural hospitals can access this same level of support.

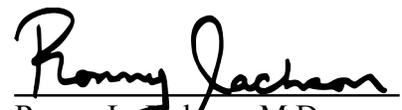
Furthermore, providing robust funding will support the recruitment and retention of health care professionals in rural areas, addressing the critical workforce shortages that many rural hospitals currently face. By helping these hospitals enhance their capacity to serve their communities, the USDA Rural Hospital TA program contributes to the long-term sustainability of rural health care and helps reduce the need for costly emergency department visits and hospital admissions.

As Congress works to improve access to health care and reduce long-term health care costs, we urge the Subcommittee to continue its strong support for the USDA Rural Hospital TA Program. Thank you for your continued leadership in preventing rural hospital closures and ensuring they have the support they need to serve their communities and provide high-quality care to all Americans, regardless of their zip code.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and attention to this very important matter.

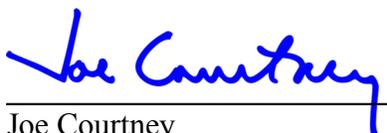
Sincerely,


JM Tokuda
Member of Congress

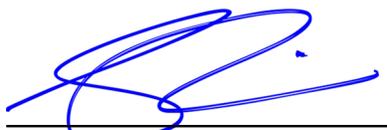

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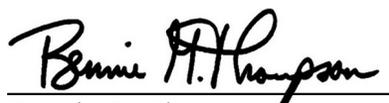

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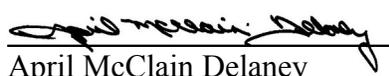

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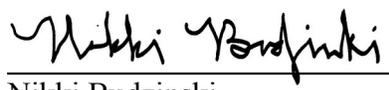

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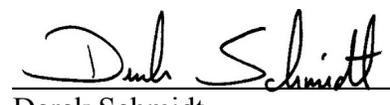

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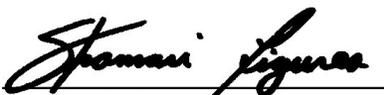

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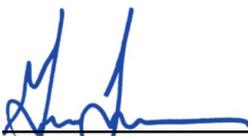
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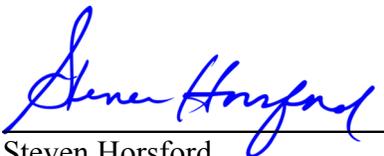
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