

Rural Hospital Legislative Priorities

H.R. 3684

SAVE AMERICA'S RURAL HOSPITALS ACT

Reps. Graves (R-MO) & Budzinski (D-IL)

Works to support rural hospitals through permanently eliminating Medicare sequestration for rural hospitals, making permanent Low-Volume Hospitals (LVH) and Medicare-Dependent Hospitals (MDH) designations, reversing cuts to reimbursement of bad debt, extending Disproportionate Share Payments (DSH) and allowing rebasing for MDH and Sole Community Hospitals (SCHs), codifying the low wage index policy, eliminating 96-hour average length of stay and physician certification regulations for critical access hospitals (CAHs), removing 3-day stay before post-acute care, making permanent increased Medicare payments for ground ambulance services in rural areas, and reauthorizing the Flex program.

S. 1282/H.R. 1417

RURAL HOSPITAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sens. Rounds (R-SD) & Welch (D-VT) & Reps. Jackson (R-TX), & Tokuda (D-HI)

Authorizes the USDA Hospital Technical Assistance Program, which provides direct, on-the-ground technical assistance to help sustain at-risk rural hospitals.

S. 3250/H.R. 6804

RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY ACT

Sens. Hassan (D-NH), Barrasso (R-WY), & Reps. Miller (R-WV), Sewell (D-AL)

Reauthorizes and modernizes the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility program which supports CAHs, small rural hospitals, and rural EMS.

S. 502/H.R. 6240

RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURE RELIEF ACT

Sens. Durbin (D-IL), Lankford (R-OK), Smith (D-MN), & Reps. Vindman (D-VA) & Moylan (R-GU)

Provides flexibility around the 35-mile distance requirement and enables states to certify a hospital as a "necessary provider" in order to obtain CAH designation, expanding the number of rural hospitals who qualify.

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S.4141

RURAL HOSPITAL REVITALIZATION ACT

Sen. Bennett (D-CO) & Moran (R-KS)

Provides 0% interest loans through USDA's Community Facilities Programs to eligible hospitals for renovations or new constructions. Eligible hospitals include CAHs, REHs, or hospitals 35 miles from the nearest hospital that demonstrate need.

S. 4233/H.R.8109

SAVE STRUGGLING RURAL HOSPITALS ACT

Sens. Warner (D-VA), Blackburn (R-TN), Hyde-Smith (R-MS), & Tuberville (R-AL) & Reps. Kustoff (R-TN) & Sewell (D-AL)

Increases the Medicare Wage Index values for hospitals with a wage index in the bottom 25th percentile. The increase is half of the difference between their actual index and the national 25th percentile's index.

H.R. 538

CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL RELIEF ACT OF 2025

Reps. Smith (R-NE) and Sewell (D-AL)

Repeals the 96-hour physician-certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services under Medicare.

H.R. 1805

ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITY HOSPITALS (ARCH) ACT

Reps. Miller (R-WV) & Sewell (D-AL)

Extends for five years the MDH and LVH designations, and allows SCHs and MDH base year adjustments.

S. 335

RURAL HOSPITAL SUPPORT ACT

Sens. Grassley (R-IA) & Welch (D-VT)

Makes permanent LVH & MDH designations and updates SCH and MDH base years.

S. 4460

RURAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL DEMONSTRATION (RCHD) REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Sens. Grassley (R-IA) and Bennet (D-CO)

Provides a 5-year extension of the RCHD Program, which offers support for small rural hospitals through enhanced Medicare reimbursement.