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NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Cindy Axne
United States House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
United State House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Axne and Newhouse,

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA), a nonprofit organization of 21,000 members that represents the health interests of rural Americans, applauds your bipartisan introduction of the *Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (RMOMS) Act* (H.R. 769). Your bill would provide much needed investment in training and technology to offer greater maternal health services and takes great strides in addressing the maternal mortality rate in the United States.

Pregnant women and new mothers in rural America have significantly higher chances of dying from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth compared to their urban counterparts. Unfortunately, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the maternal mortality rate in rural areas was over 60 percent higher than the rate in large metropolitan areas. Access to care is a growing concern as the percent of all rural counties in the US without hospital obstetric services increased from 46 percent in 2004 to 55 percent in 2014. Expanding and creating grant programs and other resources focused on rural maternal and obstetric care is critical to addressing the devastating mortality rate in rural America.

NRHA strongly supports the *Rural MOMS Act* and commends your efforts to enhance rural maternal health by creating and expanding grant programs in rural America. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Josh Jorgensen at 202-639-0550 or by email at jjorgensen@nrharural.org. We thank you for sponsoring this important legislation and being stalwart champions for rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Morgan".

Alan Morgan
Chief Executive Officer