



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate
Human Flourishing.SM*

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. Senate
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Welch,

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization representing more than 670 hospitals and 1,600 healthcare systems, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers, and organizations, I write to express our strong support for the Rural Hospital Support Act.

Rural hospitals are more than just healthcare providers, they are integral parts of their communities. They are often the largest employers in their areas, supporting the local economy and ensuring access to care for those in need. However, rural hospitals face ongoing challenges of inadequate financial resources, workforce shortages, and limited patient volumes, which make operating them uniquely challenging. As a result, more than four hundred rural hospitals are facing the possibility of closure.¹

The Rural Hospital Support Act makes a critical contribution to ensuring rural hospitals have the resources they need to continue their mission of delivering high-quality healthcare to all. The Rural Hospital Support Act would:

- Make the current enhanced low-volume Medicare adjustment for small rural hospitals permanent. The low-volume Medicare adjustment provides additional resources to address operating costs for hospitals in small and isolated areas;
- Make permanent the Medicare-dependent Hospital program which provides eligible rural hospitals with a reimbursement increase in recognition of their greater costs; and
- Update the base year sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals can use for their operating costs when calculating the payment.

With more than 165 rural designated hospitals, the Catholic health ministry looks forward to working with you to improve healthcare for all Americans. We thank you for your leadership on behalf of all the communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO

¹ Chartis. *2025 Rural Health State of the State*. February 11, 2025. Available at <https://shorturl.at/1HYyb>.