



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

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Tina Smith
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Katie Britt
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senators Hassan, Collins, Smith and Britt:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic Healthcare systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to thank you for introducing and sponsoring S.380, the *Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act*. This bipartisan legislation would ensure that rural health care facilities are equipped with targeted resources to provide high-quality obstetric care to women within their own community.

Ensuring access to maternal healthcare is a fundamental commitment for many of our members. However, rural healthcare challenges have led to significant disparities, leaving many women with limited opportunities for quality care. This bill seeks to address these gaps by equipping hospitals with essential medical resources, expanding telehealth programs and enhancing existing obstetric care through specialized training for healthcare professionals and strengthened healthcare network collaboration. By investing in these critical areas, we can help safeguard maternal health and improve outcomes for women in rural communities.

As Catholic health care providers, this legislation is a necessary federal counterpart to our work at the community level as we continue to address maternal health disparities, especially for those living in rural areas. Aligned with our vision of empowering bold change to elevate human flourishing, CHA remains committed to collaborating with you to drive this legislation forward. We thank you for your leadership on behalf of all the communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,


Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO