



CHUCK GRASSLEY

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR IOWA

Stakeholder Support: RURAL HOSPITAL SUPPORT ACT

U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), John Fetterman (D-Pa.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.).

“Medicare extender programs are critical for rural hospitals to sustain essential health care services and financial viability. This funding enables hospitals to support their communities by expanding access to care, employing community members, and contributing to local economies. These programs are vital to support the health and well-being of rural Iowa, and IHA and its members greatly appreciate Senator Grassley's work on this important issue,” **said Chris Mitchell, Iowa Hospital Association President and Chief Executive Officer.**

“MercyOne supports the Rural Hospital Support Act given our system includes hospitals of all different structures and sizes. For communities like Newton and Clinton, those local community hospitals are responsible for 24/7 coverage and have a critical responsibility to take care of Iowans. This legislation will help us to sustain community care 24/7, and ensure access to care across our state,” **said Bob Ritz, President and Chief Executive Officer of MercyOne.**

“We appreciate Senator Grassley’s ongoing work to help Iowans living in rural communities continue to have access to health care. The Low-Volume Hospital program helps provide financial support for UnityPoint Health-Marshalltown to ensure we can continue to support the health care needs of our community,” **said Jenni Friedly, president of UnityPoint Health-Waterloo.**

“The Low-Volume Hospital program helps ensure Iowans have access to high quality health care in their community. We appreciate Senator Grassley’s

leadership in this effort,” **said Rachel Pohl, Executive Director of UnityPoint Health – Trinity Muscatine.**

“Rural hospitals are vital to the health and well-being of Iowans living in rural communities across our state. We believe every Iowan should have access to care locally. The Low-Volume Hospital (LVH) program will help continue to support this need and we appreciate Senator Grassley’s ongoing leadership in securing needed funding,” **said Leah Glasgo, president of UnityPoint Health – Fort Dodge.**

“Senators Grassley and Welch understand the challenges that rural hospitals face, and the need for Congress to permanently extend these important support mechanisms,” **said the Alliance for Rural Hospital Access.** “We thank the Senators, along with the bill’s 10 additional original cosponsors, for their commitment to ending the unpredictability surrounding these Medicare reimbursements, which will allow rural hospitals to more fully deploy Congress’ original intent for these programs.”

"The American Hospital Association thanks Senators Grassley and Welch for their strong leadership and dedication to address the challenges facing rural hospitals and health systems by making the Medicare-dependent Hospital and enhanced Low-volume Adjustment programs permanent," **said Lisa Kidder Hrobsky, American Hospital Association Senior Vice President, Legislative and Political Affairs.** "Rural hospitals are essential access points for care, economic anchors for communities and the backbone of our nation’s rural health care infrastructure. This legislation provides the increased support needed now by many rural hospitals to deliver vital care and services to their patients."

“The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) applauds Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Peter Welch (D-VT) for their bipartisan proposal to reauthorize the Medicare-Dependent Small Rural Hospital (MDH) and Low-Volume Hospital (LVH) program add-ons beyond April 1, 2025. Both the MDH and LVH designation are critical to providers across the United States. As nearly half of rural hospitals operate with negative margins, now is not the time to let lifeline programs lapse. Reauthorization is critical to ensuring stability for the rural health safety net,” **said Alan Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Health Association.**