

Rural Hospital Priorities

Save America's Rural Hospitals Act

(H.R. 833 in 118th Congress)

Reps. Graves (R-MO) and Huffman (D-CA)

Works to ensure rural hospitals are equipped to support their patients 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 (SCH), wage index policy revisions, eliminating unnecessary CAH conditions of participation, and reauthorizing the Flex program, among other provisions.

H.R. 1417 Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program Act

Reps. Jackson (R-TX) and Tokuda (D-HI)

Authorizes the USDA Hospital Technical Assistance Program to identify and address hospital needs to improve financial performance and quality outcomes.

S. 502 Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act

Sens. Durbin (D-IL), Lankford (R-OK) and Smith (D-MN)

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.

Rural Hospital Flexibility Act of 2024

(S. 5308 in 118th Congress)

Sens. Smith (D-MN), Barrasso (R-WY), Cortez-Masto (D-NV), and Blackburn (R-TN)

Amends and modernizes title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the Rural Hospital Flexibility program.

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Save Rural Hospitals Act of 2023

(S. 803/H.R. 3635 in 118th Congress)

Sens. Warner (D-VA) and Blackburn (R-TN)

Reps. Sewell (D-AL) and Ferguson (R-GA)

Establishes a national minimum area wage rate under the Medicare Area Wage Index for hospital payments to adjust for geographic differences in labor costs.

Critical Access Hospital Relief Act of 2023

(H.R. 1565 in 118th Congress)

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

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

S. 335 Rural Hospital Support Act

Sen. Grassley (R-IA)

Makes permanent LVH & MDH designations, allows SCH and MDH base year adjustments.

H.R. 1805 Assistance for Rural Community Hospitals (ARCH) Act

Carol Miller (R-WV), Terri Sewell (D-AL)

Extends for five years the Low-Volume Hospital (LVH) and Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) designations, and allows sole community hospitals and MDH base year adjustments, as well as direct GAO to carry out a report on Medicare rural hospital classifications.

Hospital Revitalization Act

(S.3105 in 117th Congress)

Sen. Bennett (D-CO)

Provides grants and low-interest loans to hospitals to construct and modernize their facilities, including rural health clinics, off-site outpatient departments, and other facilities that are not physically part of the hospital building.