



September 5, 2023

The Honorable Adrian Smith
Congressman
House of Representatives

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
Congressman
House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Smith and Blumenauer:

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) applauds your introduction of H.R.3730, the Rural Health Clinic Burden Reduction Act. This legislation modernizes the Rural Health Clinic designation under Medicare and provides important regulatory relief including relief from outdated staffing, laboratory requirements, and definitional requirements related to census definition and primary care thresholds.

NRHA is a non-profit membership organization with more than 21,000 members nationwide that provides leadership on rural health issues. Our membership includes every component of rural America's health care, including rural community hospitals, critical access hospitals, doctors, nurses, and patients. We provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.

Rural Health Clinics provide critical care in many rural communities. The Rural Health Clinic program was created in 1977 to address the shortage of health care providers in rural communities and has since become an important part of the rural health care safety net. Over 4,400 Rural Health Clinics provide primary care services to rural residents across the country. The provider type serves as a vital source of care for rural residents to access quality primary care services close to home. Since the program's inception nearly 50 years ago, health care and the needs of rural America have evolved. It is vital the Rural Health Clinic statute is updated to respond to these needs and ensure its stability for years to come.

H.R.3730/ S.198 Rural Health Clinic Burden Reduction Act ensures the over 60 million Americans who reside in rural America will maintain the healthcare access they deserve. Because of the significant presence of RHCs and the quality of care they provide in rural areas, NRHA urges swift passage of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Cochran-McClain (ccoehran@ruralhealth.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Morgan", written in a cursive style.

Alan Morgan
Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Health Association

RuralHealth.US

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