



**American Hospital  
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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our nearly 43,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act of 2015 (S. 607).

The Medicare Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program (RCH) was established under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act and further extended in 2010 under the Affordable Care Act. The demonstration establishes rural community hospitals and tests the feasibility of cost-based reimbursement for small rural hospitals that are too large to be critical access hospitals.

By extending the demonstration for five more years, your legislation will ensure that RCH continues to help America's communities in many ways, especially by allowing hospitals to expand and improve the services rural communities need.

Again, we are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

