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## **Legislative Action Alert!**

*Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012*

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<b>NEED ACTION FROM.....</b>	<b>Medicare-dependent and low-volume hospitals</b>
<b>ACTIONS .....</b>	<b>Urge your senators to cosign letter to Senate Finance Committee supporting provisions of the Rural Hospital Access Act (S. 2620)</b>
<b>WHEN.....</b>	<b>Immediately</b>
<b>WHY .....</b>	<b>Letter recommends including Medicare-dependent and low-volume hospital provisions in upcoming physician payment legislation</b>
<b>HOW.....</b>	<b>Call or e-mail your senators</b>

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ASK YOUR SENATORS TO SUPPORT ADDING PROVISIONS OF THE *RURAL HOSPITAL ACCESS ACT* TO UPCOMING PHYSICIAN PAYMENT LEGISLATION

***Provisions would reauthorize expired programs for MDHs and low-volume hospitals***

Earlier this year, Sens. Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Charles Grassley (R-IA) introduced the *Rural Hospital Access Act of 2012* (S. 2620), which would reauthorize both the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and provide an extension of the enhanced low-volume Medicare adjustment for prospective payment system (PPS) hospitals for one year through Sept. 30, 2013. (*The MDH program and low-volume hospital payment adjustment expired Sept. 30*). Eyeing an opportunity to get these critical programs reauthorized before Congress adjourns for the year, Sens. Schumer and Grassley are asking the Senate Finance Committee to work to include S. 2620 in the expected upcoming Medicare physician payment fix legislation.

We need your help in getting cosigners to the [Schumer/Grassley letter](#) to Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and showing support for these important [rural programs](#). Contact your senators and ask them to cosign the Schumer/Grassley letter.