Supervision bill would protect rural access to outpatient services

Representatives Kristi Noem (R-SD) and Collin Peterson (D-MN) recently introduced a bipartisan and AHA supported bill H.R. 2801, the Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services Act of 2013 (PARTS). PARTS would protect access to outpatient therapeutic services, such as drug infusions, blood transfusions, and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services. Specifically, this bill which is a companion to S. 1143 would:

- Adopt a default standard of “general supervision” (rather than “direct supervision”) by a physician or non-physician practitioner (NPP) for outpatient therapeutic services;
- Create an exemption process using a provider advisory panel to identify those outpatient services risky and complex enough to require direct supervision;
- Ensure that for critical access hospitals (CAHs), the definition of “direct supervision” is consistent with the CAH conditions of participation that allow a physician or NPP to present within 30 minutes of being called; and
- Holds hospitals and CAHs harmless from civil or criminal action regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS’s) retroactive reinterpretation of “direct supervision” requirements for the period 2001 through 2014.

Contact your members in the House and urge them to cosponsor the AHA supported H.R. 2801. Remind your members in the Senate to support S. 1143.

You may inform your members of Congress about the supervision policy using the AHA Factsheet.