



American Hospital
Association®

ACTIONALERT

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

NEED ACTION FROM: *Small rural and critical access hospital leaders*
ACTION: *Contact your senators*
WHEN: *Your immediate attention is requested*
WHY: *Need support for enforcement delay on direct supervision requirements for CAHs and small hospitals and to extend RCH demo*

Urge Senate to Pass Short-term Enforcement Delay on Direct Supervision Requirements and Extend the RCH Demo Program

The Senate Finance Committee (SFC) this morning passed important AHA-supported rural legislation, advancing the bills for consideration by the full Senate. **We need your help in securing support for these two bills:**

Direct Supervision: S. 1461 would extend through calendar year (CY) 2015 the enforcement delay on direct supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services provided in critical access hospitals (CAHs) and rural prospective payment system (PPS) hospitals with 100 or fewer beds. The bipartisan legislation was introduced by Sens. John Thune (R-SD), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Jon Tester (D-MT). S. 1461 applies only to CY 2015, therefore, we continue to urge Congress to enact the AHA-supported legislation, the Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services (PARTS) Act (S. 257/H.R. 1611), which would adopt a default standard of “general supervision” for outpatient therapeutic services, among other provisions.

RCH Demonstration: S. 607 would extend for five years the Rural Community Hospital (RCH) Demonstration Program and was introduced by Sens. Charles Grassley (R-IA), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Tom Udall (D-NM). The RCH program enables rural hospitals with fewer than 51 acute care beds to test the feasibility of cost-based reimbursement. Currently 23 small rural hospitals participate in RCH. A five-year extension would allow participating hospitals to continue to seek out opportunities to expand and improve health services in their rural communities. Note that this legislation was modified during the Committee process to extend the demonstration only for those hospitals participating in the programs as of December 30, 2014. Additionally, the modification requires a date certain of no later than August 1, 2018, by which the Secretary of Health and Human Services must submit its report to Congress regarding the effectiveness of the demonstration program.

Action Needed: Urge your senators to support S. 1461 and S. 607 as passed by the SFC. (Both bills await consideration by the House of Representatives.)

The AHA is focused on ensuring small or rural hospitals have the resources they need to provide high-quality care and meet the needs of their communities.

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