

What's at Stake?



Due to inaction from Congress, critical programs that protect health care in rural communities have expired in 2017.



– The Medicare-Dependent Hospital program expired Sept. 30.



– The enhanced Low-Volume Adjustment program expired Sept. 30.



– The ambulance add-on payment program expired Dec. 31.

Why it's Important?



These programs have bipartisan support and are critical for rural hospitals and their ability to provide quality, accessible care in their communities.



– Rural hospitals overall provide essential health care services to nearly 57 million people and are often the only source of care in the community.



– Every dollar spent by a rural hospital produces another \$2.29 of economic activity.



– 830 rural hospitals across the country are negatively impacted by the expiration of these programs, threatening patient access to care.

What's the Solution?



Urge your Members of Congress to protect these vital rural programs by cosponsoring:



– The Rural Hospital Access Act of 2017 (S. 872/H.R. 1955) which would permanently extend the Medicare-Dependent Hospital and enhanced Low-Volume Adjustment programs; and



– The Medicare Ambulance Access, Fraud Prevention, and Reform Act of 2017 (S. 967) and the Ambulance Medicare Budget and Operations Act of 2017 (H.R. 3236) which would extend the ambulance add-on payment adjustment.



And most importantly, urge your lawmakers to include straight extensions of these critical rural programs in any "must-pass" legislation moving through Congress in the coming weeks.

Rural Medicare Extenders



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