



**American Hospital
Association®**

800 10th Street, NW
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Washington, DC 20001-4956
(202) 638-1100 Phone
www.aha.org

July 6, 2016

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Thune:

On behalf of our nearly 2,000 small and rural hospital members, the American Hospital Association (AHA), I am writing to express our strong support for S. 3129, which would extend through calendar year (CY) 2016 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.

Your legislation would provide immediate relief to small, rural hospitals and ensure these communities will continue to have access to outpatient therapeutic services. As you know, these services have always been provided by licensed, skilled professionals under the overall supervision of a physician and with the assurance of rapid assistance from a team of caregivers, including a physician. While hospitals recognize the need for direct supervision for certain outpatient services that pose a high risk or are very complex, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services policy generally applies to even the lowest risk services.

Since S. 3129 applies only to CY 2016, the AHA continues to work toward passage of the Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services (PARTS) Act (S. 257/H.R. 1611), which would adopt a default standard of “general supervision” for CAHs and small PPS hospitals with 100 or fewer beds and provide additional regulatory relief related to this issue.

Again, we are pleased to support S. 3129 and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President





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July 6, 2016

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4705

Dear Sen. Cantwell:

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