

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2025

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

Administrator Mehmet Oz
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Administrator Oz,

As members of the Indiana delegation, we ask you to allocate the highest possible funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program to our state. As you know, Congress appropriated \$50 billion to support healthcare in rural communities. This funding is critical to ensuring rural healthcare facilities can address the growing list of hurdles they face to provide high quality care to the communities they serve.

Indiana is proud to be home to 42 rural counties. Over one fifth of Hoosiers live in a rural community, which is over 1.49 million people. These communities are home to farmers and ranchers that play a critical role in our nation's food security. However, over the past few decades, our rural healthcare providers have begun to experience significant challenges to provide care in their communities.

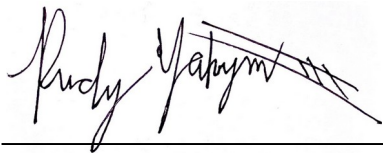
As you know, our rural hospitals, community health centers, and other healthcare facilities face severe and unique healthcare challenges including provider and staffing shortages, financial instability, and limited resources to upgrade medical equipment and cybersecurity infrastructure. All of these challenges negatively impact Hoosiers' ability to access preventative and specialty healthcare services. Examples of some of the healthcare challenges faced by our rural communities include:

- Currently, Indiana has 52 rural hospitals of which five are at risk of closing and 13 have been forced to reduce the services they offer.
- Indiana is home to over 30 critical access hospitals and 71 of Indiana's 92 counties are health professional shortage areas.
- Indiana's rural communities also face serious shortages of obstetrics care with over 20 of our rural counties not having a labor and delivery provider creating significant risks for expecting mothers and their babies.
- 50% of Indiana's counties meet the criteria for ambulance deserts. For urban and suburban counties, the average trauma response time is 3 minutes, and the average transport time is 5 minutes. Meanwhile, Hoosiers in rural counties face an average response time of 17 to 30 minutes and their transport time can take hours.

Our rural providers continually make the most of the limited resources they have and continue to faithfully serve our communities. However, the lack of access to care in rural areas leads to worse long-term health outcomes.

We strongly urge you to ensure that the highest possible funds from the Rural Health Transformation Program are distributed to Indiana. These funds are critical to maintaining access to vital health services and keeping hospital doors open. Additionally, these investments will play an important role in ensuring Hoosiers have access to preventative services and in turn have healthier futures. We look forward to partnering with you on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



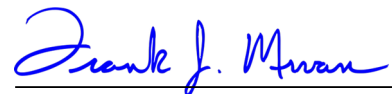
Jim Banks
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



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