



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

9521 BROOKLINE AVENUE ♦ BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1431
(225) 928-0026 ♦ FAX (225) 923-1004 ♦ www.lhaonline.org

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

On behalf of our patients, member hospitals and health systems, the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) urges you to cosponsor the Rural Hospital Access Act of 2017 (S. 872/H.R. 1955), legislation authored by Reps. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Peter Welch (D-VT) in the House and Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in the Senate, that would make the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) rural Medicare programs permanent.

As you know, Louisiana's rural hospitals often provide the primary source of employment, the sole point of access to healthcare services and significant revenues for their communities. More than half of Louisiana's acute-care hospitals are located in rural areas. On average, rural patients tend to be older, have lower incomes and suffer from higher rates of chronic illness than their urban counterparts. Medicare hospital cost reports show that more than 40 percent of Louisiana rural hospitals had negative operating margins in fiscal year 2015, compared to 32 percent of rural hospitals nationally.

Congress created the MDH and LVA programs to minimize disparities in reimbursement between rural and urban providers, which rural hospitals are not otherwise able to absorb. The MDH program provides an additional measure of protection for smaller rural hospitals serving a high percentage of Medicare patients. The LVA program recognizes that certain hospitals are more isolated and simply do not have the volume for economies of scale. The sliding-scale payment adjustment created by the LVA program helps compensate for such a competitive disadvantage. These rural Medicare programs currently expire Oct. 1, 2017. Please contact the bill authors to sign on the bill as a co-sponsor.

Thank you for working to protect seniors' access to needed care. We appreciate your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Salles
President & CEO



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April 7, 2017

The Honorable John Kennedy
United States Senate
B11 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

On behalf of our patients, member hospitals and health systems, the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) urges you to cosponsor the Rural Hospital Access Act of 2017 (S. 872/H.R. 1955), legislation authored by Reps. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Peter Welch (D-VT) in the House and Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in the Senate, that would make the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) rural Medicare programs permanent.

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April 7, 2017

The Honorable Ralph Abraham
U.S. House of Representatives
417 Cannon House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Abraham:

On behalf of our patients, member hospitals and health systems, the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) urges you to cosponsor the Rural Hospital Access Act of 2017 (S. 872/H.R. 1955), legislation authored by Reps. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Peter Welch (D-VT) in the House and Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in the Senate, that would make the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) rural Medicare programs permanent.

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April 7, 2017

The Honorable Garret Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
430 Cannon House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

On behalf of our patients, member hospitals and health systems, the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) urges you to cosponsor the Rural Hospital Access Act of 2017 (S. 872/H.R. 1955), legislation authored by Reps. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Peter Welch (D-VT) in the House and Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in the Senate, that would make the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) rural Medicare programs permanent.

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April 7, 2017

The Honorable Clay Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

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April 7, 2017

The Honorable Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

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April 7, 2017

The Honorable Cedric Richmond
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Richmond:

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April 7, 2017

The Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scalise:

On behalf of our patients, member hospitals and health systems, the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) urges you to cosponsor the Rural Hospital Access Act of 2017 (S. 872/H.R. 1955), legislation authored by Reps. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Peter Welch (D-VT) in the House and Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in the Senate, that would make the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) rural Medicare programs permanent.

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