



August 28, 2025

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, MD
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21244–8016

Submitted electronically

RE: Rural Health Transformation Program

Dear Administrator Oz,

On behalf of the Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA), with **497 members** across the United States, we write to express our strong support for the federal Rural Health Transformation Program - as established by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) - and to respectfully request that the nation's trauma centers be included as a fund recipient to bolster and expand access to live-saving care in rural and underserved communities.

Trauma centers are a central part of the nation's emergency and rural health infrastructure. We stand ready to work with the Administration and appropriate state entities to ensure that these limited federal resources are used to build long-term capacity and resilience across the country. TCAA respectfully requests that the following be considered as eligible activities associated with improving the accessibility and quality of rural healthcare services:

- **Expanding trauma center infrastructure, including investing in inter-facility transports, regional / statewide communications systems, and regional medical operations coordination centers** to improve access to care for rural and underserved populations;
- **Investing in telemedicine platforms** such as **tele-ICU** and **tele-trauma**, improving access to time-sensitive and life-saving interventions in remote areas;
- **Recruiting, educating and training the trauma workforce**, particularly in emergency surgery, nursing, EMS, and critical care;
- **Enhancing preparedness and disaster response capabilities** – including medical supplies and equipment, training, and simulation exercises – to ensure readiness for large-scale emergencies or mass casualty events;
- **Advancing pediatric trauma care**, which is often under-resourced in rural communities.

Like many safety-net institutions, trauma centers are navigating financial headwinds while remaining on the frontlines of emergency patient care. The Rural Health Transformation Program offers a rare opportunity to strengthen the trauma system nationwide — not just for today's patients, but for the public health and national security demands of tomorrow.

We respectfully request that trauma centers be represented in the Rural Health Transformation Program and be eligible for direct funding, especially those serving large rural catchment areas, even if located in more urban regions.



We would be honored to collaborate with you as the plan is developed. Please let us know how we can assist in this process — whether through data sharing, planning input, or plan development and implementation.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to protecting access to high-quality care across the United States.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ward
President
Trauma Center Association of America

J. Kevin Croston, MD
Chair, Board of Directors
Trauma Center Association of America

cc: The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services