

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Yadira Caraveo, MD
United States House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carol Miller
United States House of Representatives
465 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Caraveo and Miller,

On behalf of the National Rural Health Association and the undersigned organizations we write to express our strong support for the *Rural Residency Planning and Development Act of 2024* (H.R. 7855). We commend your leadership and dedication to improving healthcare access in rural communities across the United States.

Rural areas are essential to our nation's health infrastructure but face persistent shortages of healthcare professionals. Since its inception in 2019, the Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) pilot program has effectively begun to address these disparities by supporting the creation and sustainability of rural residency programs, which are crucial for training and retaining healthcare providers where they are most needed. Funding from RRPD helps to cover start-up costs, accreditation, faculty development, and recruitment, and expand the number of trained physicians in rural settings. The authorization of a dedicated funding line for the RRPD program, as proposed in H.R. 7855, is a vital step towards strengthening our rural physician workforce. By ensuring the continuity and expansion of this program, H.R. 7855 will make a significant contribution to the long-term sustainability of rural healthcare access in our communities.

We urge all members of Congress to support this important legislation. Enhancing and expanding the reach of physician training in rural areas will not only alleviate current provider shortages but will also fortify our rural communities against future healthcare challenges.

Thank you for your commitment to this critical issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this significant legislation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Board of Medical Specialties
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Radiology
American Medical Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Urological Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Federation of State Medical Boards
Greater New York Hospital Association
National AHEC Organization

National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Rural Health Association
Premier Inc.
Society of General Internal Medicine
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons