

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2025

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Larry Johnson
Director Iowa Dept. of Health and Human Services
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Governor Reynolds and Director Johnson,

Rural communities form the backbone of Iowa's economy and culture, yet too many Iowans continue to face serious barriers to accessing timely and reliable health care. Iowa is among the most rural states in the nation, with nearly two-thirds of its counties classified as rural and a large share of residents living more than 30 miles from a hospital or specialist.

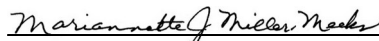
No state better represents the purpose of the Rural Health Transformation Program—ensuring that truly rural Americans are not left behind in the modern health system. This program represents the most significant federal investment in rural health in our nation's history and presents an important opportunity for Iowa to lead in developing a sustainable, high-quality model of rural care.

Through the following guiding principles for this application, we believe Iowa is prepared to ensure these funds directly benefit the communities most in need:

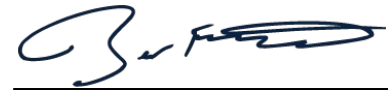
- **Direct funds to authentically rural areas.** Resources should be focused on communities that have lost hospitals, key service lines, or consistent access to care—not on urban or suburban facilities that may qualify through technical designations.
- **Restore and expand essential services.** Priority should be given to reopening or establishing service lines such as obstetrics, oncology, emergency medicine, and mental health care. These services are critical to retaining population and supporting local economies.
- **Strengthen Iowa's rural health workforce.** Investments should support training, recruitment, and retention of health professionals in rural areas.
- **Advance innovative care models.** Expand telehealth, mobile health units, and transportation programs to reach isolated populations. Encourage prevention and wellness focused care to manage chronic disease and improve long-term outcomes.
- **Ensure transparency and accountability.** The state's implementation plan should include clear, measurable outcomes and public reporting to track how each dollar of RHTP funding is used and to assess the effectiveness of each initiative.

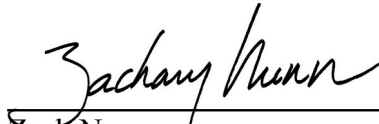
We appreciate your leadership and partnership in this effort and stand ready to assist. With careful planning and collaboration, this historic investment can revitalize access to care, stabilize rural hospitals, and create a stronger health care system across our state.


Sincerely,


Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress


Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress


Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress


Zach Nunn
Member of Congress


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator


Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator