

PATIENTS DEPEND ON RURAL HOSPITALS

COMMUNITY

1 out of 5



people live in rural areas of the U.S.

14%



of total rural employment is attributed to the health sector.



These Americans are scattered over **90%** of the country.

Hospitals are the **LARGEST** or second **LARGEST EMPLOYER** in most **RURAL COMMUNITIES.**



CHALLENGES



Extreme distances, challenging geography, and weather complicate health care delivery.



Rural Americans are **older, poorer, and sicker** than their urban counterparts.



Millions of rural Americans have **limited access to a primary care provider.**

IMPACT OF CLOSURE



Patients **lose access** to timely and essential care.



Local economy experiences a **severe decline.**



Physicians, pharmacies, and other health providers will also leave the community.

IT'S TIME TO ACT

Support S.2648, the Rural ACO Improvement Act, to improve the benchmarking process for the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) to ensure that all ACOs have an equal opportunity to share in savings regardless of their geographic location.



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