



Charles N. Kahn III  
President and CEO

November 16, 2023

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

The Honorable Terri Sewell  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Miller and Sewell,

The Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) is pleased to endorse *H.R. 6430 – Assistance for Rural Community Hospitals (ARCH) Act*. This bipartisan bill extends the Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) program and Medicare Low-Volume Hospital (LVH) payments for five years each and includes a GAO report to ensure Medicare rural hospital designations are bolstering rural health care. This legislation will provide our nation’s rural hospitals with much-needed financial stability, allowing them to continue to serve millions of patients who live in rural areas across the country.

The FAH is the national representative of more than 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. FAH members provide patients and communities with access to high-quality, affordable care in both urban and rural areas across 46 states, plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Our members include teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children’s, and cancer services.

Every day across our nation, millions of Americans in small communities depend on rural hospitals for crucial, lifesaving care. These facilities are often the sole comprehensive health provider in these areas – from primary care to advanced specialties. Despite the vital services they provide to their communities, rural hospitals are financially vulnerable. Many operate on thin margins and struggle to keep their doors open, with low patient volumes and a patient mix that is generally older and from lower-income backgrounds, relying heavily on Medicare and Medicaid.

Enacting the *ARCH Act* and extending the LVH and MDH hospital payment programs would provide a lifeline to rural hospitals. This legislation ensures integral funding and financial stability, allowing rural hospitals to keep their doors open 24/7/365 for the communities in which

they operate. We thank Representatives Miller and Sewell for their leadership on this important issue and call on Congress to take up the *ARCH Act* before these payment programs expire in September 2024.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our support of the legislation further, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff at (202) 624-1534.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to a man, written in black ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a prominent initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.