



Charlene MacDonald
President and CEO

January 29, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) and the more than 1,000 member hospitals nationwide we represent, **FAH writes to express our strong support for the bipartisan health extenders package and urge swift Senate passage of these critical health provisions before they expire on January 30, 2026.** This legislation provides a vital lifeline for rural Americans' access to hospital care and takes important steps to mitigate harmful Medicaid cuts. It is a meaningful step toward keeping coverage accessible, affordable, and local for patients who need it most.

We thank lawmakers for their continued bipartisan commitment to extending the Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low-Volume Hospital (LVH) adjustment payment programs, which provide financial stability to maintain the health infrastructure of rural areas. Rural hospitals play a pivotal role in delivering care to over 60 million Americans living in underserved communities and these targeted payment adjustments remain indispensable to ensuring they can continue to serve as key anchors for the health and economic stability of their communities.

Likewise, the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program is vital to supporting hospitals that serve high numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients. Eliminating these cuts and making positive modifications to the DSH formula help address chronic Medicaid underpayment and take important steps toward mitigating increasing uncompensated care costs. FAH deeply appreciates Congress' efforts to protect against further reductions to the Medicaid program.

This legislative package prioritizes patient access to health care in rural and underserved areas and helps ensure the financial stability of hospitals that serve as essential lifelines in their communities.

We look forward to working with the House of Representatives to ensure this legislation crosses the finish line, and we appreciate the bipartisan commitment to strengthening our health care system and moving these important priorities forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlene MacDonald".