

March 16, 2026

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

The Honorable Jill Tokuda
United States House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith
United States House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Troy Carter
United States House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representatives Miller, Tokuda, Smith, and Carter,

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 2025* (H.R. 6468). 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 physicians 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. 6468, is a vital step towards strengthening our rural physician workforce. By ensuring the continuity and expansion of this program, H.R. 6468 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 clinician 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,

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Board of Medical Specialties
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Medical Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Echocardiography
Association for Advancing Physician and Provider Recruitment
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Department Chairs of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Federation of American Hospitals
Federation of State Medical Boards
Greater New York Hospital Association
Heart Rhythm Society
Medical Group Management Association
NAPCRG
National Rural Health Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association
Thalamus
Thalamus.org
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons