



**American Hospital  
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May 4, 2016

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
2241 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

On behalf of our nearly 2,000 small and rural hospital members, the American Hospital Association (AHA), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 5164, the Rural Hospital Regulatory Relief Act, which would permanently extend the enforcement moratorium on direct supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services provided in critical access hospitals (CAHs) and small, rural hospitals.

Your legislation would provide immediate regulatory relief to small, rural hospitals and ensure their communities will continue to have access to outpatient therapeutic services. As you know, these services have always been provided by licensed, skilled professionals under the overall supervision of a physician and with the assurance of rapid assistance from a team of caregivers, including a physician. While hospitals recognize the need for direct supervision for certain outpatient services that pose a high risk or are very complex, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services policy generally applies to even the lowest risk services.

The AHA applauds your continued leadership on behalf of rural hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. We look forward to working with you to achieve final passage of H.R. 5164.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

