

## H.R. 2191/S. 1390

### Physician-Led Hospitals Coalition Letter

October 10, 2025

We, the 88 undersigned organizations that represent physicians, payers and patients, support the *Physician Led and Rural Access to Quality Care Act*, H.R. 2191/S.1390. This critical bipartisan and bicameral legislation offers an innovative and practical solution to the growing healthcare crisis devastating rural America.

Rural healthcare is at a crisis point. In many rural areas, the local EMS agency is the only remaining healthcare provider. Nearly 700 rural hospitals are at risk of closure due to severe financial pressures, which places millions of Americans in healthcare deserts without timely access to care. For many, this means traveling long distances and enduring significant delays to receive even the most basic medical treatment. A 2019 study by Altarum found that the economic impact of time spent traveling and waiting for healthcare costs Americans \$89 billion annually.

The Physician-Led and Rural Access to Quality Care Act empowers physician-led hospitals to play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges by:

- **Allowing new physician-led hospitals** to be established in rural areas, offering underserved communities access to high-quality care where it is desperately needed.
- **Expanding existing physician-led hospitals** that are currently restricted under the Affordable Care Act from growing to meet the evolving needs of their communities.

Physician-led hospitals have a proven track record of delivering high-quality care at lower costs, while maintaining a patient-centered approach. Research consistently shows these hospitals achieve better clinical outcomes, heightened efficiency, and significant savings for programs like Medicare. Furthermore, empowering physician leadership in rural healthcare provision will help reduce consolidation that too often limits access and drives higher costs for rural residents.

Millions of Americans living in underserved areas deserve better. This legislation brings a clear, community-driven solution by strengthening the partnership between patients and physicians and revitalizing access to healthcare in rural regions.

We strongly urge your support for this bill to ensure timely, affordable, and high-quality care for the 60 million Americans living in rural communities.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing this national healthcare crisis.

Alabama Medical Association

Alabama Orthopaedic Society

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization  
American Urological Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arkansas Medical Society  
Arthroscopy Association of North America  
California Medical Association  
California Orthopaedic Association  
Colorado Orthopaedic Society  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Connecticut Orthopaedic Society  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Elevance Health  
Georgia Orthopaedic Society  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois Association of Orthopedic Surgeons  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Iowa Orthopaedic Society  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana Orthopaedic Association  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Maine Medical Association  
Maryland Orthopaedic Association  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association  
Medchi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Medical Group Management Association  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of New Jersey

Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Michigan Orthopaedic Society  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Orthopaedic Society  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Missouri State Orthopaedic Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
New Jersey Orthopaedic Society  
New Mexico Medical Society  
North Carolina Medical Society  
North Carolina Orthopaedic Association  
North Dakota Medical Association  
North Dakota Orthopaedic Society  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
OrthoForum  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society  
Physician Advocacy Institute  
Physician-Led Healthcare for America  
SC Medical Association  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Tennessee Orthopaedic Society  
Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons  
Texas Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Texas Medical Association  
Texas Orthopaedic Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Virginia Orthopaedic Society  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia Orthopaedic Society  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wisconsin Orthopaedic Society