

# The Ohio House of Representatives



**September 30, 2025**

**Dear Members of Congress,**

As members of the Ohio House Rural Hospital Caucus, we write to urge you to preserve the newly established Rural Health Fund, which allocates \$50 billion to the states, as you debate and finalize the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act.

This fund is a vital investment in rural and independent hospitals, many of which are already facing financial strain, workforce shortages, and rising demand for care. Our local hospitals and health care leaders have invested significant time and resources into developing plans and applications for these funds. To now consider withdrawing this support would be both disruptive and discouraging to the very institutions working tirelessly to serve rural communities.

The Rural Health Fund should not be used as a bargaining chip in budget negotiations. Our communities depend on the stability and strength of their local hospitals, and jeopardizing these dollars places rural health and lives at risk.

We strongly urge Congress to pass a clean Continuing Resolution and keep the Rural Health Fund intact. In doing so, you will affirm a commitment to the patients, providers, and communities who rely on these hospitals every single day.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Meredith Craig.

Representative Meredith Craig, Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Kellie Deeter.

Representative Kellie Deeter, Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Mark Hiner.

Representative Mark Hiner

Handwritten signature of Gary Click.

Representative Gary Click

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Handwritten signature of Jason Stephens in black ink.

Representative Jason Stephens

Handwritten signature of Diane Mullins in black ink.

Representative Diane Mullins

Handwritten signature of Justin Pizzulli in black ink.

Representative Justin Pizzulli

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Gross in black ink.

Representative Jennifer Gross

Handwritten signature of Tracy Richardson in black ink.

Representative Tracy Richardson

Handwritten signature of Anita Somani in black ink.

Representative Anita Somani, MD

Handwritten signature of Derrick Hall in black ink.

Representative Derrick Hall

Handwritten signature of David Thomas in black ink.

Representative David Thomas

Handwritten signature of Angie King in black ink.

Representative Angie King

Handwritten signature of Melanie Miller in blue ink.

Representative Melanie Miller

Handwritten signature of Tim Barhorst in black ink.

Representative Tim Barhorst

Handwritten signature of Kevin Ritter in black ink.

Representative Kevin Ritter

Handwritten signature of Adam Holmes in black ink.

Representative Adam Holmes