

**H.R. 9001**  
**Physician-Led Hospital Coalition Letter**

September 13, 2024

We, the 86 undersigned organizations that represent physicians and patients, support the *Physician Led and Rural Access to Quality Care Act*, H.R. 9001. The bill would create critical physician hospital ownership exemptions for communities that face the greatest demand for additional hospital services.

H.R. 9001 would allow physician ownership in rural hospitals for hospitals that are more than a 35-mile drive from a main patient campus of the hospital or critical access hospital. (Or, in the case of mountainous terrain or in areas with only secondary roads available, a 15-mile drive.)

In addition, the legislation would allow grandfathered physician-led hospitals, which have been handcuffed since the 2010 adoption of the Affordable Care Act, to meet their community needs and expand.

Rural hospitals provide essential healthcare services to millions of Americans, but they continue to face immense financial pressures and workforce shortages that threaten their viability. On average, rural hospitals operate on very thin margins, and over 130 rural hospitals have closed since 2010.

Rural communities deserve every tool possible to save hospitals that are on the cusp of closure. Unfortunately, the law prevents physicians from owning hospitals, which limits one of the most logical class of potential owners, physicians, from saving a rural hospital. Lifting the physician ownership ban would give underserved rural areas a potential tool to provide hospital services in the form of a physician-led hospital.

Physician-led hospitals have been shown to provide high-quality care at lower costs compared to other hospitals. Studies have found that they deliver savings to Medicare, feature lower prices for procedures and are more efficient. Consolidation of rural hospitals into larger health systems reduces services and responsiveness to community needs. More competition from physician-led hospitals offers a solution to combat consolidation and address access challenges so that patients have additional choices for timely, affordable and high-quality care.

We urge you to support this critical legislation, which would give an additional lifeline to rural communities.

Sincerely,

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 Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Executives  
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  
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  
South Carolina 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