

December 12, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
Room H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader
Room H-328, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
House Majority Whip
Room H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Scalise, and Majority Whip Emmer:

We, the 42 undersigned organizations that represent physicians, payers and patients, support the efforts of House Republican leadership to expand an innovative and practical solution to the healthcare access, affordability, and consolidation crisis facing America: provider-owned hospitals (POHs).

Healthcare access is at a crisis point. Particularly 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.¹

Provider-owned 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 healthcare deserts deserve better. Expansion of POHs brings a clear, community-driven solution by strengthening the partnership between patients and physicians and revitalizing access to healthcare.

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

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology

¹ <https://www.physiciansadvocacyinstitute.org/Portals/0/assets/docs/PAI-Research/Physician-Owned%20Hospitals%20Brief%20-%203-11-24%20-%20for%20PAI.pdf?ver=j3Ckl0rorDgQaahtkXPVcQ%3D%3D>

American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Medical Association
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society
American Osteopathic Association
American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Urological Association
California Orthopaedic Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connecticut Orthopaedic Society
Elevance Health
Georgia Orthopaedic Society
Hawaii Medical Association
Louisiana Orthopaedic Association
Medical Group Management Association
Michigan Orthopaedic Society
Minnesota Orthopaedic Society
Missouri State Orthopaedic Association
Nebraska Medical Association
New Mexico Medical Society
National Association of Spine Specialists
New Mexico Medical Society
New Mexico Orthopaedic Society
North Dakota Orthopaedic Society
Orthopaedic Society of Oklahoma
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Physician-Led Healthcare for America
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
South Dakota State Medical Association
Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons
Texas Orthopaedic Association

Cc: The Honorable Jason Smith, House Ways and Means Committee Chair
The Honorable Vern Buchann, House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chair
The Honorable Brett Guthrie, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair
The Honorable Morgan Griffith, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Chair