



# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *115<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

## TITLE

HONORING RURAL HOSPITALS ON NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 15, 2018

Ms. BUSTOS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize all of our rural hospitals on National Rural Health Day. Small towns and rural communities across our country face unique obstacles, and access to affordable quality care is one of them.

Our doctors, nurses, and other rural hospital employees work tirelessly to help patients overcome many of the health care challenges they face on a daily basis, including limited access to primary care providers and specialists. Additionally, rural hospitals face larger financial barriers. That is why I have continually fought for Medicare and the Affordable Care Act which are critical lifelines for rural patients and providers. Medicaid expansion alone has provided nearly 1.7 million additional rural Americans with access to care.

As an advocate for rural America, I have also helped to overcome these obstacles by expanding broadband access and removing barriers to telehealth that have the ability to provide 21st century care. I introduced the Special Registration for Telemedicine Clarification Act with my colleague Congressman Buddy Carter. I was proud to see our common sense provision signed into law that will provide more treatment options to rural communities through telemedicine.

On National Rural Health Day, it is important that we take a moment to thank those who serve our nation in rural hospitals and provide access to quality health care. I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide the resources necessary to ensure the health of rural America is never left behind.