



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4905

September 30, 2025

Governor Tony Evers
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers,

The Working Families Tax Cuts included within H.R. 1 (P.L. 119-21) delivered real results for hardworking Americans, farmers, and manufacturers. The bill provides historic tax relief by boosting take-home pay, makes the Trump Tax Cuts permanent, eliminates taxes on tips and overtime, provides seniors eligible for Social Security tax relief, increases the child tax credit, and protects family farms from the death tax. It also fully funds President Trump's border wall and increases staffing for ICE and Border Patrol to keep our communities safe. Additionally, the bill included a historic investment to rural hospitals.¹

Healthcare in rural America has been an afterthought for far too long. Rural patients face higher chronic disease rates and must travel farther to receive care compared to urban communities.² Additionally, rural hospital closures and facility conversions paint a clear picture that rural health care is eroding and in desperate need of a sustainable solution.³ Together, we took action to ensure that rural healthcare in Wisconsin is no longer left behind.

The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program provides \$50 billion over fiscal years 2028-2032 to help rural health centers improve patient outcomes, expand access to healthcare, and enhance caregiving opportunities.⁴ The \$50 billion RHT Program fund provides \$25 billion to be evenly distributed to all states with a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved application and \$25 billion for approved states based upon factors such as the rural population and number of rural health facilities in the state. Together, these funds will help in making rural America healthy again, providing sustainability to rural health providers, maintaining and growing our highly skilled healthcare workforce, encouraging innovative models that improve patient care, and enlisting new technological tools to assist facilities, providers, and patients.

¹ One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 327-332, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/text>.

² U.S. Government Accountability Office, Why Health Care is Harder to Access in Rural America (May 16, 2023), <https://www.gao.gov/blog/why-health-care-harder-access-rural-america>.

³ The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Rural Hospital Closures, <https://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/rural-health/rural-hospital-closures/>. (Last visited September 26, 2025).

⁴ *Supra* note 3.

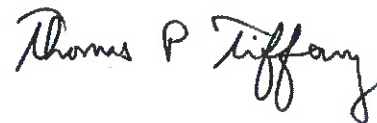
Importantly, on September 15, 2025, CMS issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the RHT Program.⁵ The deadline for states to apply for funding is November 5, 2025, with awardees to be notified by December 31, 2025.⁶ After awardees are announced, CMS has committed to working alongside states to provide oversight of the program and ensure successful implementation occurs that has a lasting impact on our rural communities.

As the deadline approaches for states to apply for this historic investment, we expect you will work with CMS at MAHARural@cms.hhs.gov in forming Wisconsin's application. We understand the benefits Wisconsinites will receive through the RHT Program and stand available to assist in this funding process.

Sincerely,



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Tony Wied
Member of Congress

⁵ U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS Launches Landmark \$50 Billion Rural Health Transformation Program (Press Release, Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-launches-landmark-50-billion-rural-health-transformation-program>.

⁶ *Id.*