

United States Senate

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, M.D.
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Administrator Dr. Oz:

I write to offer my personal support for Kansas's application for the Rural Health Transformation Program funding. The leadership team who prepared the Kansas application engaged healthcare stakeholders across the state in a series of meetings to identify meaningful programs and strategies to transform rural health care delivery. I have also met with many of these healthcare provider groups over the past few weeks, and I applaud them for their innovative ideas to pivot from sick care to healthcare. I do believe we can make Rural America Healthy Again.

As you and I have discussed, these funds are to be both transformative and rural-focused. I urge CMS to provide oversight to states to ensure that both tenants are enforced over the next five years. We have seen time and again that well-intentioned programs and funding mechanisms have been altered to benefit urban hospital systems or used to backfill negative margins due to poor management. I would also ask that these funds not be made available for Congressional Directed Spending, but left for the healthcare stakeholders to access based on merit. And finally, I am hopeful that both the state leadership and CMS will monitor metrics of population health outcomes over the five program years to ensure that the funds are in fact making positive and lasting changes.

As a physician who practiced in and managed a rural hospital, I understand the challenges these providers are facing. This funding opportunity is an incredible chance to transform our healthcare delivery system and I respectfully urge CMS to give favorable consideration to Kansas's application. My office stands ready to answer questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Marshall, MD
U.S. Senator, Kansas