



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***CONRAD/THOMAS HOSPITAL BILL
IMPORTANT FOR RURAL HEALTH***

The following statement was released today by Chip Kahn, President of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH):

Legislation introduced today by Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Craig Thomas (R-WY) would provide vitally needed federal help to hospitals in rural areas, enabling them to continue to provide high-quality hospital care that Medicare beneficiaries in rural communities expect and deserve.

This important legislation would raise Medicare payments to rural hospitals and help achieve equity in hospital payments, across rural and urban settings. To be able to provide high quality community care, rural hospitals must contend with a unique set of financial and workforce challenges. We commend Senators Conrad and Thomas for recognizing these challenges, and for their commitment to help rural hospitals secure the resources to provide care for Medicare beneficiaries. We look forward to working with them, and with other Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, to get this important legislation passed into law.

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The Federation of American Hospitals ("FAH") is the national representative of privately owned and managed community hospitals and health systems throughout the United States.