



August 26, 2019

The Honorable Tina Smith
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Smith and Murkowski:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 134,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express the organization's support for the "Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services Act" or the "Rural MOMS Act" (S. 2373).

The AAFP is pleased to support the Rural MOMS Act because it addresses several important strategies necessary to improve maternal health for women in rural parts of the country. Most notably the legislation supports a demonstration program to incentivize physician training in rural areas. S. 2373 also invests in improved data collection and the use of telehealth to improve health care quality and access.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 700 women in America die each year as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications. The risks are three to four times higher for black women as compared to white women. In rural areas, women face health disparities, and are almost twice as likely as urban women to experience negative maternal health outcomes. According to a 2018 March of Dimes report, approximately 5 million women live in counties with no hospital offering obstetric care.

Again, we are pleased to support the Rural MOMS Act and welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance this important legislation. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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