

Durbin 1<sup>st</sup> DEGREE ~~DEGREE~~ #9  
S.L.C.

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To establish a program to provide grants for rural hospitals at risk of closure.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN

Viz:

1 At the end of part I of subtitle C of title VI, add  
2 the following:

3 **SEC. 63\_\_\_\_. GRANTS FOR RURAL HOSPITALS AT RISK OF**  
4 **CLOSURE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish  
7 a program to provide grants to eligible applicants (as de-  
8 fined in section 3570.61(a) of title 7, Code of Federal Reg-  
9 ulations) for costs of health care facilities described in sub-  
10 section (b) that meet the purposes allowable under the  
11 grant program established under section 306(a)(19) of the

1 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
2 1926(a)(19)).

3 (b) USE.—An eligible applicant to whom a grant is  
4 awarded under this section may use the grant funds for  
5 costs of health care facilities—

6 (1) that primarily serve rural areas (as defined  
7 in section 343(a)(13)(C) of the Consolidated Farm  
8 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
9 1991(a)(13)(C)));

10 (2) that are located in a rural area (as so de-  
11 fined); and

12 (3) the median household income of the popu-  
13 lation to be served, as determined using patient-ori-  
14 gin data from the most recent Medicare cost report  
15 filed by the eligible applicant, or a comparable serv-  
16 ice-area methodology specified by the Secretary, by  
17 which is less than the greater of—

18 (A) the Federal poverty line; and

19 (B) the applicable percentage determined  
20 under section 3570.63(b) of title 7, Code of  
21 Federal Regulations, of the State nonmetropoli-  
22 tan median household income.

23 (c) PRIORITY OF FUNDING.—The Secretary shall  
24 make awards under this section to eligible applicants in  
25 the following order or priority:

1           (1) The health care facility has experienced 3  
2 consecutive years of negative operating margins.

3           (2) There has been an increase in uninsured  
4 patient revenue equal to or greater than 10 percent  
5 at the health care facility between January 1, 2025,  
6 and the date on which the most recent data is avail-  
7 able on uninsured patient revenue at the time that  
8 the eligible applicant submits the application.

9           (3) The health care facility has received or is  
10 expected to receive less than \$8,000,000 in funding  
11 for construction or capital projects under section  
12 2105(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 1397ee(h)) as of the date of the award.

14 (d) AWARD TERMS.—

15           (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—

16           (A) IN GENERAL.—Regulations promul-  
17 gated under section 306(a)(19)(B) of the Con-  
18 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
19 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)(B)) shall apply to a grant  
20 made under this section.

21           (B) MAXIMUM.—Notwithstanding subpara-  
22 graph (A), the Federal share of the cost of a  
23 project carried out using a grant under this sec-  
24 tion shall not be less than 75 percent, without  
25 regard to the graduated scale under section

1           3570.63(b) of title 7, Code of Federal Regula-  
2           tions.

3           (2) MAXIMUM AWARD.—No grant awarded  
4           under this section shall exceed \$8,000,000 for any  
5           fiscal year.

6           (3) MULTIPLE FISCAL YEARS.—The duration of  
7           a grant awarded under this section shall not exceed  
8           3 fiscal years.

9           (e) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIRE-  
10          MENTS.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days be-  
12          fore the Secretary publishes any notice of funding  
13          availability or similar notice relating to grants under  
14          this section, the Secretary shall provide—

15                   (A) a copy of that notice to the Committee  
16                   on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
17                   and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
18                   and Forestry of the Senate; and

19                   (B) a briefing to the staff of those Com-  
20                   mittees.

21           (2) REPORTING.—Not later than December 31,  
22          2027, and each December 31 thereafter, the Sec-  
23          retary shall publish on the website of the Depart-  
24          ment a report that describes—

1           (A) the eligible applicants selected for an  
2           award under this section;

3           (B) the health care facility each eligible  
4           applicant is using the award for;

5           (C) a description of the projects funded by  
6           each award; and

7           (D) the amount of funding awarded to  
8           each eligible applicant.

9       (f) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise  
10     available, there is appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
11     out this section, out of any money in the Treasury not  
12     otherwise appropriated, \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal  
13     years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until ex-  
14     pended.