



## **HEALTH REFORM MEANS AFFORDABILITY, OPTIONS AND ACCESS FOR RURAL AMERICANS**

### **More Affordable Insurance Coverage Choices**

- ‘Affordability credits’ to help families (\$88,000 annual income or less for a family of four) pay for health insurance.
- Limits on the out-of-pocket costs that families and individuals will face each year.
- Establish a ‘Health Insurance Exchange’ so middle class families and small business employees to can choose from a range of health insurance plans, including a public health option, that provide adequate benefits.
- Ending discrimination based on pre-existing conditions or health status.

### **More Doctors for Rural Communities**

- Medicare bonuses for primary care doctors and general surgeons practicing in medically underserved areas.
- Expanded loan repayments and training programs for doctors and health care workers who serve in rural communities.
- Expansion of the National Health Service Corps and the Public Health Corps.
- Establishes a Tele-health Advisory Committee that will provide expert advice on how telemedicine can deliver specialist care to rural and underserved communities.
- Workforce planning to address doctors shortages other than primary care in rural areas.

### **Protect Rural Hospitals and Invest in Community Health Centers**

- Includes special protections in Medicare payment rules for Rural Hospitals to hire and keep good doctors and nurses.
- Prioritizes rural areas for distribution of additional Medicare funds for community health centers.
- Includes ways for the Secretary of HHS to address urban/rural inequities in Medicare payment rates based on recommendations to be developed by the Institute of Medicine.

### **Invests in Prevention, Wellness and Chronic Disease Management**

- Invests at least \$7.5 billion over five years in rural preventive services to fight diabetes and obesity, and address tobacco use and substance abuse.
- Ensure that small and community-based practices, which dominate in rural areas, can participate in the new ‘medical home’ program and other innovative programs which emphasize primary care, coordination care among service providers, and reduce unnecessary hospitalizations in rural areas.