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Agriculture and Rural Development
Wildlife

SUBCOMMITTEE
Appropriations & Budget –
Public Safety

April 22, 2020

Governor's Office
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Honorable Governor J. Kevin Stitt:

Rural Medical Supply Companies are sharing concerns about changes you are planning for the medical supply provider rates across the State of Oklahoma. These business owners are indicating your changes could possibly result in 40% to 50% cuts in current provider rates. This would devastate the rural medical supply industry and would very likely result in forcing many suppliers to close their businesses. Oklahoma struggles with providing health care and medical supplies to the rural parts of our state. Your actions would mean that rural Oklahomans will have reduced access to medical equipment and a decrease in services.

Being a state elected official, who traveled over a majority of our great state, you are aware of the challenges faced between rural verse urban areas. Rural medical suppliers are required to cover immensely larger distances to provide the same services as their urban competitors. Rural providers are not only faced with greater distances but often must travel on dirt roads and rugged terrain. The federal healthcare system has already tested and proven cost for rural providers are more than urban providers when they lost 40% of DME providers across the state of Oklahoma. Because the federal government recognized these critical factors, they allocated higher reimbursement rates for rural providers and established their rates by zip code.

These Oklahoma Health Providers wish to remind you they are on the front line of our state epidemic. Changings rates at this point in time places providers at a particular disadvantage. These providers are overwhelmed with maintaining medical equipment for the covid-19 epidemic and are unable to mount a suitable defense to prevent your mandates which would devastate their industry.

The Healthcare Authority has not provided a clear plan. Thus, Medical Supply Companies are requesting a more clear and transparent plan. They are asking for a face to face meeting between your office, the Healthcare Authority and them. In addition, they hope you will consider showing wisdom by following the federal reimbursement rates which recognized and have established higher rural provider rates. They are asking you, Governor, to save their industry and support Rural Oklahoma Health Care. Now is not the time to implement these cuts during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). There are many House and Senate members who support this and have signed onto this letter with their signatures.

Respectfully,



Representative Justin JJ Humphrey

House District 19
Representative Johnny Tadlock



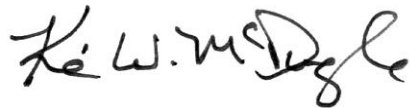
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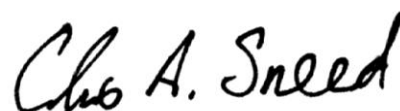
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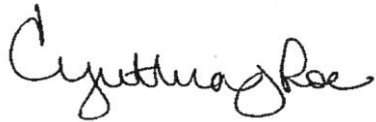
Representative Regina Goodwin



Representative Jacob Rosecrants



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Representative Tammy Townley



Representative Mark Vancuren



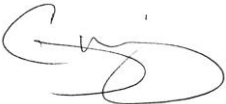
Representative Zach Taylor



Representative Denise Crosswhite Hader



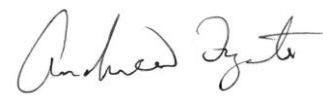
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Representative Denise Brewer



Representative Andy Fugate



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Representative Marilyn Stark



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Representative Dustin Roberts



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Senator Mark Allen



Senator Michael Bergstrom



Senator Dewayne Pemberton



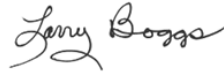
Senator Casey Murdock



Senator Roland Pederson



Senator Larry Boggs



Senator Tom Dugger



Senator James Leewright

