

S. 380, Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act

Section 1. Short Title.

This section designates the short title of the bill as the as the “Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act”.

Section 2. Obstetric Emergency Training Program.

This section directs the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health program to create an obstetric emergency training program for rural health care facilities that do not have dedicated labor and delivery units. This section authorizes \$5 million in additional funding for the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health for fiscal years 2026 through 2028 for carrying out this purpose

Section 3. Grant Funding for Equipment and Supplies.

This section establishes a new program for obstetric services in which the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to integrate obstetric readiness training curriculum into rural health care settings, build workforce capacity, and purchase equipment necessary to manage obstetric emergencies. Eligible entities include rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, or rural emergency hospitals that are located in maternity care health professional target areas or a rural areas. This section authorizes \$15 million for fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to carry out this program.

Section 4. Pilot Program for Teleconsultation.

This section establishes a pilot program for the development of statewide or regional maternal health care telehealth access programs that support the provision of urgent maternal health care in rural facilities without dedicated obstetric units. This section includes requirements that the telehealth access program provide urgent consultative support to rural non-obstetric settings of care, assess urgent maternal consultation needs in those facilities, and require credentialed physicians to staff the teleconsultation line. This section authorizes \$5 million for fiscal years 2026 through 2029 for the pilot program.

Section 5. Study on Obstetric Units in Rural Areas.

This section requires the HHS Secretary to conduct a study that maps maternity ward closures and regional patterns of patient transport and examines related models for regional partnerships for rural obstetric care. The Secretary must provide a report to Congress on the results of the study within three years