

HR 489

Protecting Rural Access to Care Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jan 25, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jan 28, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/489>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]

Party: Republican • State: NY • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]	D · NY		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Jacobs, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Feb 4, 2021
Rep. Tenney, Claudia [R-NY-22]	R · NY		Apr 8, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 28, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Protecting Rural Access to Care Act

This bill limits the scope of guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the secondary road criteria for Medicare critical access hospitals (CAHs).

Currently, in order to qualify as a CAH under Medicare, a hospital must either (1) be located more than 35 miles (15 miles in mountainous regions or areas with only secondary roads) from another hospital, or (2) have been certified prior to January 1, 2006, by the state as a necessary provider of services in the area.

The CMS issued guidance on July 31, 2015, that provided more detail as to the differences between primary and secondary roads for purposes of CAH certification. The bill specifies that this guidance does not apply to CAHs that were certified prior to July 31, 2015, and that these CAHs are instead subject to the standards that were in place before the guidance was issued. Ongoing CAH certifications are also subject to pre-guidance standards until the CMS issues new guidance after a specified public comment period.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 28, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 25, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 25, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com