

From: State Senator Stephen Huffman <SHuffman@ohiosenate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 11:50 AM
To: Steve Huffman
Subject: FW: Rural Health Transformation Funds - rural hospitals identified by the Ohio House Rural Hospital Caucus

From: Chad Ross <Chad.Ross@maryrutan.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 7:04 PM
To: State Senator Stephen Huffman <SHuffman@ohiosenate.gov>; State Senator Mark Romanchuk <Romanchuk@ohiosenate.gov>; State Senator Susan Manchester <Manchester@ohiosenate.gov>; State Senator Brian Chavez <Chavez@ohiosenate.gov>
Cc: Burkey, Brent <bburkey@ftmc.com>; Jon Dingledine <JDingledine@mercero-health.com>; Bruce.White@kch.org; Rodney Stout <rstout@holzer.org>; agunther@pomerenehospital.org; anita.hackstedde@salemregional.com; Pohlman, Alex <apohlman@wilsonhealth.org>; Berning, Cynthia (cberning@JTDMH.org) <cberning@JTDMH.org>; korduckis@woodcountyhospital.org; mlewis@bvhealthsystem.org; sboyes@wchosp.org; leonard.stepp@armchealth.org; State Senator Robert McColley <McColley@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: Rural Health Transformation Funds - rural hospitals identified by the Ohio House Rural Hospital Caucus

Senators Manchester, Huffman, Romanchuk and Chavez,

My name is Chad Ross and I am the President and CEO of Mary Rutan Hospital, located in Bellefontaine, Ohio. I've previously had the good fortune of working with Senator Manchester as a constituent in her district. I'm emailing all of you now on behalf of myself and the twelve other Ohio hospital CEOs copied on this email. For quick reference, below is a list of the CEOs and hospitals represented:

Rodney Stout, Holzer Health System
Brent Burkey, Fisher-Titus Medical Center
Anita Hackstedde, Salem Regional Medical Center
Jon Dingledine, Mercer Health
Bruce White, Knox Community Hospital
Anne Gunther, Pomerene Hospital
Chad Ross, Mary Rutan Hospital
Cindy Berning, Joint Township Hospital/Grand Lake Health System
Alex Pohlman, Wilson Health
Leonard Stepp, Ashtabula Regional Medical Center
Scott Boyes, Wooster Community Hospital
Myron Lewis, Blanchard Valley Health System
Stan Korducki, Wood County Hospital

Our group recently was able to meet with State Representatives Kellie Deeter and Meredith Craig in their roles as co-chairs of the Ohio House Rural Hospital Caucus. They were able to provide us with updates on the Rural Health Transformation Funds received by the State of Ohio. All of the above-named Ohio hospital leaders want to express our gratitude for the consideration of distributing \$30 million dollars of

those funds to this group of hospitals that have not been a part of private state directed payment programs or other enhanced reimbursement models. We acknowledge and value the legislature's consideration of the challenges we face and the important roles our hospitals serve in our respective communities.

Since the update we received from Representatives Deeter and Craig, this group of CEOs has discussed a topic they mentioned about the methodology for distributing the \$30 million dollars to our group. We unanimously suggest and request for the funds to be distributed on an equal basis. We believe this is a fair method that recognizes the equally important role each of our hospitals serves for our respective communities. Further, this is the simplest method that will allow these funds to be distributed and received in the most timely manner. Timely receipt of these funds best achieves the intended goal of maintaining and transforming the care we are able to provide to our rural patients.

Of course, we will all ably and enthusiastically participate in whatever distribution model the legislature may determine. To the extent it is helpful, however, we want to share the foregoing unanimous request for consideration. Above all, the primary message is to express our thanks and appreciation for these funds being made available to our group of hospitals.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of us. We are happy to continue the conversations with you or any other interested parties.

Respectfully,

Chad A. Ross,
President and CEO
Mary Rutan Health

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