

# Trump's Washington, and What it Means for Rural Health Clinic Policy in 2025



# Introductions



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# Reminders

- All participants are muted upon entry
- Questions will be accepted via the Q&A box at the end of today's presentation
  - For any technical issues please email [asst@narhc.org](mailto:asst@narhc.org)
- Slides will be available via the chat box and can also be downloaded on NARHC.org
  - The presentation recording will be available by mid-week
- To receive your CRHCP CEUs as part of your maintenance requirements, be sure to complete the survey at the end of the webinar

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# NARHC Membership

**Thank you to our NARHC Members who make it possible to advocate and educate, enhancing the ability of RHCs to deliver cost-effective, quality health care to patients in rural, underserved communities!**

## About NARHC Membership:

- Exclusive discounts on conferences and courses, access to members-only webpages and webinars, free benchmarking, serve on the Board or a committee, or participate in the Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellowship!
- For most RHCs 85% of the membership fee is allowable as a business expense on your cost report. The other 15% goes towards lobbying in Washington D.C.



**Unsure if you're a member or want to learn more?**  
**Reach out to [membership@narhc.org](mailto:membership@narhc.org) or call 866-306-1961**





# Agenda

- How the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress Concluded
  - Immediate Priorities of the 119th Congress
  - The Latest Regulatory Updates
  - Upcoming Health Policy Expectations
- 
- Where do RHCs fit into it all?
  - How you can be involved!



# How the 118th Congress Concluded

- The last short-term funding package was set to expire on December 20, and telehealth flexibilities were set to expire on December 31
- On December 17, Congress released 1,547 pages of legislative text which contained:
  - Short-term government funding through March 14
  - **A fix to RHC telehealth policy in 2-year extension of Medicare telehealth policies**
  - Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform
  - Disaster funding
  - And more!



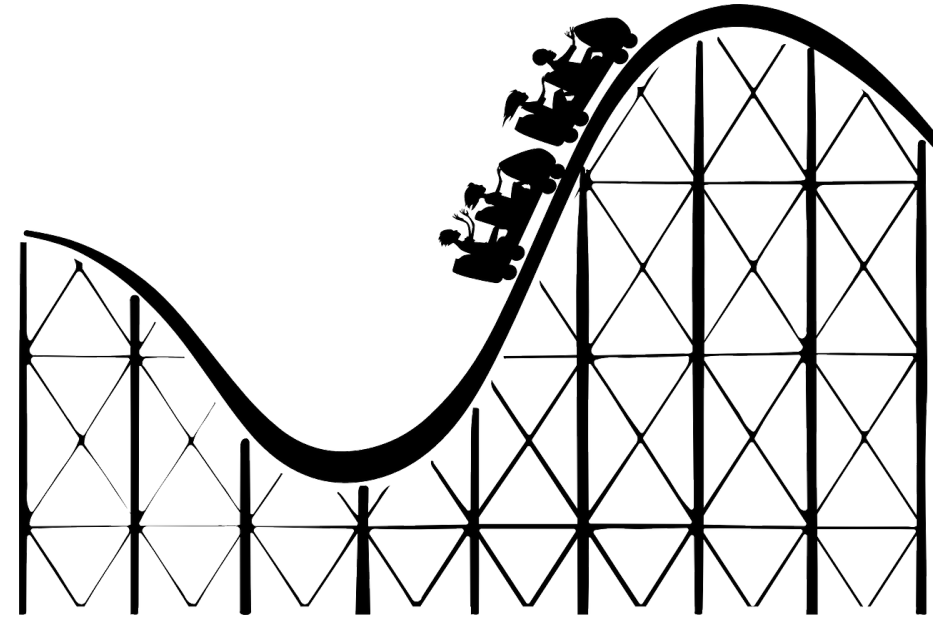
# How the 118th Congress Concluded

- On December 18, Elon Musk began to post on Twitter/X about the legislation:



# How the 118th Congress Concluded

- After 2 more iterations, on December 20, Congress passed a 116-page continuing resolution:
  - Funds the federal government through March 14
  - Extends Medicare telehealth flexibilities (including RHC G2025 policy) through March 31
  - 1 year farm bill
  - Disaster relief





# Immediate Priorities of the 119th Congress

- Rapidly approaching a funding cliff of March 14 and important flexibilities/programs like Medicare medical telehealth expiring on March 31
- Senate also responsible for confirmation hearings of President-elect Trump's nominees
- Plans for budget reconciliation



# Telehealth Immediate Strategy

- NARHC is pushing for the next telehealth extension to contain a fix for RHC telehealth policy
  - The basis for this is the initial continuing resolution text which was based on the *Telehealth Modernization Act*
- We made significant strides in Members of Congress being aware of the need for this specific fix and the overall benefits/opportunities of telehealth
- Once telehealth bills are reintroduced this Congress, join us in advocating for a fix via Voter Voice



# The Latest Regulatory Updates

- CMS published [CY 2025 payment rates](#) for care coordination and telehealth
- We are still awaiting guidance on vaccine billing / cost reporting beginning July 2025
- Status Update – EKG Reimbursement Issue
- For an RHC-specific review of the Final 2025 Physician Fee Schedule please review our TA webinar [here](#).



# HIPAA Security Rule – Proposed Rule

- First update since 2013, HHS/OCR deemed necessary given rapidly evolving technology and increases in cyberattacks
- Depending on your cybersecurity infrastructure currently, compliance with these provisions could be a significant lift
- Requirements would include:
  - Multi-factor authentication
  - Vulnerability scanning every 6 months; penetration testing every 12 months
  - Network segmentation
  - Business associate agreements must be updated to contain security safeguards





# HIPAA Security Rule – Proposed Rule

- More detail on this rule and HIPAA compliance broadly can be found in yesterday's [TA webinar](#)
  - [HHS Press Release](#)
- Comments are due by March 7, 2025
  - Please contact [Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org](mailto:Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org) to discuss NARHC's comments
- The entirety of this rule is to be determined as it was a Biden Administration Proposed Rule that would need to be finalized under the Trump Administration
  - While cybersecurity is a bipartisan priority, there is speculation that all rules in proposed status or recently implemented could be at risk of being completely eliminated or paused



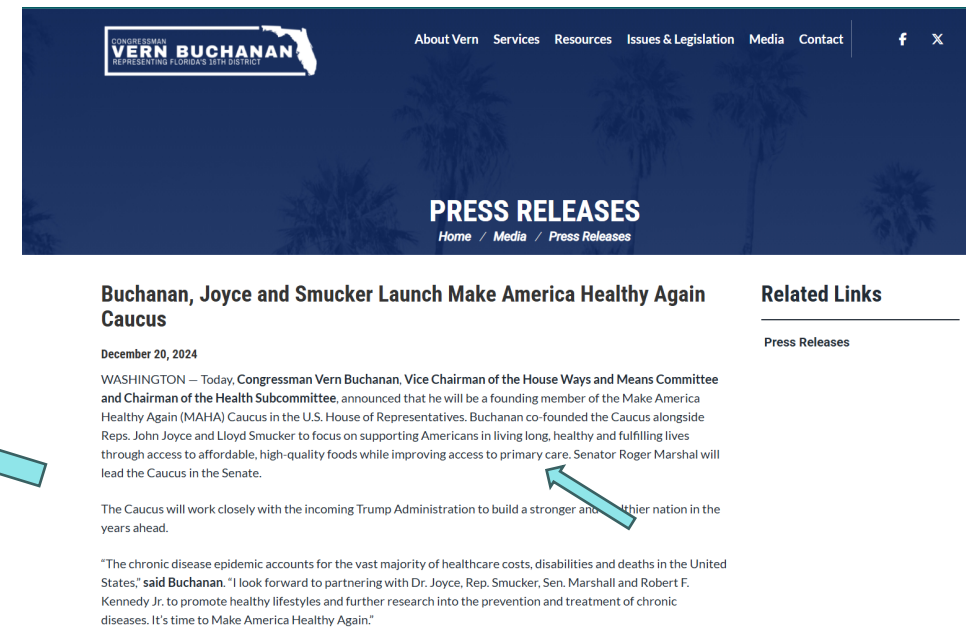
# Upcoming Health Policy Expectations

- In addition to the most immediate priorities (keeping the federal government open), the Republican majorities have big goals to cut spending, revisit past laws and regulations, etc.
- Last week, a "menu" of \$5 trillion+ in cuts that originated from House Republicans began floating around, containing:
  - "Repeal Major Biden Health Rules" -- \$420B savings
    - This could be nursing home staffing, Section 1557 Nondiscrimination, disability protections
  - "Reimagining the Affordable Care Act" -- \$151B savings
  - Medicaid "Per Capita Caps" -- \$918B savings
  - "SNAP Reforms" -- \$22B savings



# Upcoming Health Policy Expectations

- Additionally, while RFK Jr. still faces a Senate confirmation hearing, both the Senate and House have already developed "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) caucuses intended to carry forward these ideas



# Upcoming Health Policy Expectations

## Continuing Initiatives

- Promoting value-based care
- Price Transparency in Healthcare
  - Further Good Faith Estimate and Advanced Explanation of Benefits Implementation

## Long-term issues

- Rising costs of healthcare premiums
- Financial sustainability of Medicare/Medicaid





# Why do we continue to advocate?

**“If you don’t have a seat at the table, you’re probably on the menu.”**



# How You Can Help!

2025 NARHC Policy Survey –  
Complete by February 26th



2025 NARHC Policy Summit –  
Registration open now!



# 2025 NARHC Policy Survey – Launched TODAY!

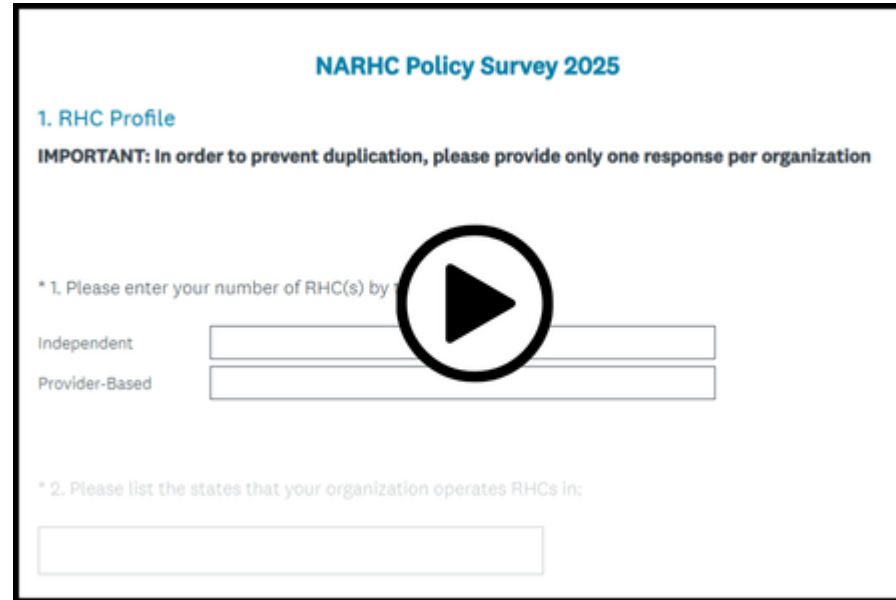
- One of the best ways to help NARHC and the RHC program
- Data is a tool that we need to make smart policy
- RHCs have less data than other programs
- This survey will help us answer key questions such as:
  - *What is the scale of the RHC program?*
  - *What is the status of telehealth adoption in RHCs?*
  - *What is the RHC payer mix and is it shifting?*
  - *How is the growth of Medicare Advantage impacting RHCs?*



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# 2025 NARHC Policy Survey – Video Walk Through



**NARHC Policy Survey 2025**

**1. RHC Profile**

**IMPORTANT:** In order to prevent duplication, please provide only one response per organization

\* 1. Please enter your number of RHC(s) by type

Independent

Provider-Based

\* 2. Please list the states that your organization operates RHCs in:

**\*All submissions are entered into a drawing to win a \$500 stipend for the Policy Summit!\***

- Responses are due by **February 26th, 2025**
- With any questions, please contact [Mo.Sullivan@narhc.org](mailto:Mo.Sullivan@narhc.org)



# 2025 NARHC Policy Summit

*June 24-25, 2025*  
Washington, D.C.



**Learn how to be an effective advocate from:**

- NARHC D.C. staff
- Administration officials, and
- Congressional staff



**Network with other RHC advocates**



**Use your voice on Capitol Hill during meetings with your Senators and Representatives:**

- Educate on the RHC program and the 38 million patients it serves
- Advance NARHC's priorities while telling your clinic's story



# Policy Summit Schedule of Events

**June 24, 2025**  
**1:00PM – 9:00PM**

Policy Summit Conference / Evening Reception  
and Dinner

**June 25, 2025**  
**Meeting Times will Vary**

"Day on the Hill" Congressional Meetings

**Registration  
is open now  
for the first  
70  
attendees!**

**Register Here:**

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/25narhcsummit>

No registration fee; attendees are responsible for travel and lodging costs.

2 E. Main St, Fremont, MI 49412 | 866-306-1961 | NARHC.org

**NARHC**



# 2024 Policy Summit Webinar Recap



2 E. Main St, Fremont, MI 49412 | 866-306-1961 | NARHC.org



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Interested in becoming a sponsor? Click [here](#)!





# Questions?

Reminder: To receive your CRHCP CEUs as part of your maintenance requirements, be sure to complete the survey at the end of the webinar!



# Stay “In the Know” on RHC Issues

- [NARHC.org](https://www.narhc.org)
  - Email Listserv
  - Discussion Forum
  - News Tab
  - Resources Tab
    - TA Webinars
    - Policy and Advocacy
- [State rural health organizations & offices of rural health](#)
- [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy \(FORHP\) Weekly Updates](#)
- [RHIhub](#)
- [CMS RHC Center](#)



# NARHC Academy Courses

## **Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional Course – spring course registration now open!**

- Covers all aspects of RHC Operations
- Provides knowledge and skills for becoming a successful RHC Professional
- Requires an 80% or higher exam score to earn Certification

## **Other Academy Offerings:**

- Individual Modules: Admin & Finance, Billing & Coding, and Compliance
- Becoming an RHC – All Things Considered
- Introduction to RHCs

**Scan to learn more  
or register!**



# NARHC Community Forum

Your resource to engage in discussions about all things Rural Health Clinics. The NARHC Community Forum serves as a valuable resource to ask questions, network with other professionals, share knowledge, and stay informed!

## How to join:

- Access the registration form through this QR code!
- Sign up to create an account & verify email
- Build your Community profile
- Access the community and start interacting!

Scan to join!



**Questions?** Contact us at [academy@narhc.org](mailto:academy@narhc.org)





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