



NATIONAL GRANGE

Elevating rural interests since 1867

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National Grange Challenges Congressional Candidates: Protect Rural Healthcare and Fix 340B

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 6, 2026) Washington, D.C. — The National Grange today called on every congressional candidate across the country to commit to protecting rural healthcare and restoring accountability to the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program.

In [letters sent to candidates nationwide](#), the nation's oldest rural advocacy and service organization is asking those seeking a seat in Congress to confront a basic question: Is 340B working as Congress intended for the patients and communities it was created to serve?

For millions of rural Americans, the answer has real consequences. Rural hospitals and other healthcare providers serving uninsured and low-income patients continue to operate under extraordinary financial pressure, while structural weaknesses in the 340B program can allow benefits intended for vulnerable patients and underserved communities to flow elsewhere.

"Rural Americans should not have to question whether the federal programs created to protect their healthcare access are actually working for them," said Christine E. Hamp, President of the National Grange. "Every dollar matters when a rural hospital is struggling to keep its doors open, a pharmacy is disappearing from a small town, or a family must drive hours for care."

Hamp continued: "This should not be complicated. We should protect what works in 340B, fix what does not, and insist that the program serves the people Congress intended to serve. Accountability is not an attack on 340B. Accountability is how we preserve it."

The outreach to congressional candidates marks the beginning of a broader National Grange campaign focused on improving and sustaining the future of rural healthcare and supporting the approximately 20 percent of Americans who live in rural communities.

Earlier this year, the National Grange commissioned two separate analyses examining how the 340B program is serving rural America. Both identified significant disparities and structural concerns affecting rural providers. [Research](#) compiled by Magnolia Market Access found that hospital dual classification increased from 168 hospitals in 2018 to 593 in 2023, raising concerns that resources intended for rural and underserved communities are increasingly benefiting larger health systems. A separate [analysis](#) prepared by Avalere Health identified significant differences between rural and non-rural hospitals and highlighted policy and structural challenges affecting the stability of rural healthcare systems.

The National Grange is calling for reforms that strengthen – not weaken – the 340B program, including protecting rural hospitals and other safety-net providers from unintended consequences, closing the dual-eligibility loophole, and requiring greater transparency and accountability so policymakers and the public can see whether 340B savings are reaching the patients and communities the program was designed to help.

"Candidates for Congress are asking Americans to trust them with the future of their communities," Hamp said. "For rural America, healthcare access must be part of that conversation. We are asking every

candidate – regardless of party – to understand this issue, answer these questions, and be prepared to act.”

The National Grange will continue working with policymakers, healthcare leaders, rural providers, patients, and communities to ensure that 340B fulfills its promise to America’s most vulnerable patients and strengthens healthcare access where it is needed most.

About National Grange

The National Grange is a community-driven, nonpartisan organization that brings people together to strengthen their local communities through service, shared learning, leadership, and connection to the land. Founded in 1867, the Grange includes more than 1,400 local chapters across the country, where members take action on what matters most close to home. From supporting families and schools to organizing events and advocating for local needs, Grange members contribute millions of hours of service each year. The Grange creates opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to make a meaningful difference in their communities.

Learn more at www.nationalgrange.org

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