

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8646, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. FIGURES OF ALABAMA**

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert  
the following:

1       SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. In carrying out the pilot program de-  
2 scribed in this Act in “Rural Development Programs—  
3 Rural Development—Salaries and Expenses”, the Sec-  
4 retary shall give priority to—

5           (1) rural hospitals located in persistent poverty  
6       counties (as defined in section 733 of this Act); and

7           (2) critical access hospitals that have experi-  
8       enced a net operating loss for at least two fiscal  
9       years of the 3-year period ending September 30,  
10      2026.

