

**RESOLUTION  
OF  
THE BOARD OF OURAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Re: Rural Healthcare Programs Funding**

**Whereas**, Ouray County is 550 square miles of mountains, valleys and high mesas with a population of 4,000+/- full time residents; and

**Whereas**, the health needs of Ouray's citizens and visitors are met by one public health clinic and one private health clinic, and Ouray County Emergency Medical Services. The closest hospital is over forty miles to the north in the next county. For advanced care and specialized medical resources, Ouray County citizens have to travel two hours north to Grand Junction, Colorado or even further across the Rocky Mountains to Denver, Colorado; and

**Whereas**, federal funds go to manage and support a number of rural healthcare programs, three in particular. The Community Access Program (CAP) Grants helps fund a number of wellness health and outreach programs in rural communities. The investment in keeping our citizens healthy through wellness programs reaps a tremendous savings on in-hospital medical costs for health problems that have been allowed to go untreated until they progressed to the point of incapacitation, necessitating hospitalization. The Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides funds to help recruit and train volunteers in rural, remote and frontier areas. And the Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices Fund helps to provide needed EMS equipment into the areas where it is needed the most and can be afforded the least.

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Board of County Commissioners for Ouray County, Colorado strongly endorses the full funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Conference for critical rural health programs funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Batchelder, Chair

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Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder

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Heidi M. Albritton, Vice-Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Linda Munson-Haley,  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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Kristi R. Westfall, Member