

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=50954>

Neb. Congressman Smith Fighting Hospital Regs
(Nebraska Radio Network)-- Nebraska Third District Congressman Adrian Smith says federal rules don't just hurt the bottom line of rural hospitals, they interfere with patient care.

One requires a doctor be on hand, even for routine medical decisions; a burden on rural hospitals, which Smith says should be able to rely on other trained medical professionals on hand.

Another requires hospitals guarantee a patient-stay not exceed 96 hours, or the hospital doesn't receive Medicaid or Medicare reimbursement.

Smith would like to see this rule lifted for Critical Access Hospitals.

Smith says federal regulations cause an undue burden on rural hospitals and their patients. He claims that some of the federal requirements would force patients to travel needless miles for treatment that could be provided closer to home.

Many Signals Communications