

U.S. Rep. Van Orden: Announces federal funding for Gundersen Health System in La Crosse

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LA CROSSE, WI - At a press conference in La Crosse, today Rep. Derrick Van Orden (WI-3) announced \$600,000 in federal funds for Gundersen Health System, which if passed will support ambulances and emergency equipment for the residents of Wisconsin's Third Congressional District. This funding will allow the hospital to provide prehospital care and ambulance transfer in rural communities, helping to ensure patients receive timely and high-quality care.

"I will always stand up for rural America," said Van Orden. "We build, feed, and clothe this nation and deserve to have timely emergency services available if the need arises. As rural communities continue to struggle with hospital closures and reduced services, I am proud to champion this effort to ensure that constituents in every corner of our district have access to quality emergency services."

Each year, the House Appropriations Committee collects community development project requests from Members of Congress for consideration in the upcoming appropriations bill. These requests direct funding to local government or non-profit entities to carry out specific projects that are eligible for federal support and benefit the local community. The funding bills must still pass the House, Senate, and be signed by the President to become law.

Faster emergency medical service (EMS) response times improve patient outcomes. Unfortunately, many rural emergency services providers struggle to provide timely care due to large coverage areas and extended travel distances. According to the Rural Health Care Association, EMS total call times in America's rural communities are nearly 20 or 30 percent higher than in suburban and urban areas.