



# Sharing Discoveries, Improving Lives

Translation & Dissemination at the Saint Louis University School of Public Health

## Our Mission:

The Saint Louis University School of Public Health is dedicated to the discovery, translation, and dissemination of public health knowledge to improve the health and well being of all.



## Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Center for Rural Health Policy

The mission of the Center is to provide timely analysis, based on the best available research (including original research from the Center), to federal and state health policy makers, particularly on rural health issues. The Center began with funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health Policy. Timothy McBride is principal investigator.

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### Discovery

#### **What is the health problem?**

- ❖ Rural citizens face reduced access to medical care in the U.S., as a result of both their characteristics (e.g., higher poverty rates, lower education rates) as well as their distance from medical care providers, and the lack of wide array of providers available in their areas.
- ❖ Health policy in the U.S. is not always made with an appreciation of the issues facing rural persons.
- ❖ Few policy centers in the U.S. concentrate on producing health information to guide/shape rural health policy.

### Translation

#### **How do we take what we know and apply it to rural health policy?**

- ❖ Researchers in the RUPRI Center focus on important policy topics facing federal and state legislators.
- ❖ Researchers in the RUPRI Center utilize available literature and data to draw objective conclusions for policymakers and their staff. Researchers then interpret the findings of the research and communicate the findings using lay language widely accessible by a wide array of individuals.

### Dissemination

#### **How do we disseminate rural health findings?**

- ❖ RUPRI researchers produce short policy briefs and longer policy papers that are then widely disseminated to policymakers and their staff.
- ❖ When necessary, researchers present their findings in briefings and testimony.
- ❖ RUPRI researchers are available to policymakers and their staff for formal or informal consultation while policymakers are developing policy, so that policymakers can have objective advice informed by scientific research.

### Change

#### **What changes occurred because of the dissemination?**

- ❖ RUPRI researchers have participated in the development of several pieces of legislation.
- ❖ The dissemination of policy briefs and other research findings has increased the education of policymakers, staff, and the media about rural health policy issues.