

# EXHIBIT G

## INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-165

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,  
4 AND LABOR STUDY THE NEED FOR CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY MATCH RURAL  
5 PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.  
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7 WHEREAS, the Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program was  
8 created in 1995 to increase the number of physicians practicing medicine in  
9 rural communities in Arkansas by allowing physicians to receive funds for  
10 practicing full-time primary care medicine in a rural community in Arkansas;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, under § 6-81-701, a "qualified rural community" means an area  
14 reasonably determined by the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and  
15 Scholarship Board to be medically underserved; and  
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17 WHEREAS, under § 6-81-701, "medically underserved" means an area that  
18 has unmet needs for medical services due to factors including without  
19 limitation the ratio of primary care physicians to population, the infant  
20 mortality rate, the percentage of population with incomes below the federal  
21 poverty level as it existed on January 1, 2007, the percentage of resident  
22 individuals sixty (60) years of age and older, the percentage of physicians  
23 sixty (60) years of age and older, accessibility within the area to primary  
24 care medicine, and other relevant criteria the Arkansas Rural Medical  
25 Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board deems necessary for a  
26 determination of unmet needs for medical services; and  
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28 WHEREAS, under § 6-81-701, "primary care medicine" means health care  
29 provided in one (1) of the following areas of practices: family medicine,  
30 general internal medicine, general internal medicine and pediatrics, general  
31 pediatrics, general obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency  
32 medicine, and geriatrics; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program  
35 obligates a physician to practice full-time primary care medicine in a  
36 qualified rural community for four (4) years; and

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2           WHEREAS, eligibility for the Community Match Rural Physician  
3 Recruitment Program is dependent on the physician being a graduate of the  
4 College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences or any  
5 accredited medical school in the United States; and  
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7           WHEREAS, a physician can apply to the Arkansas State Medical Board for  
8 a license to practice medicine if the individual is a graduate of: a  
9 recognized United States or Canadian medical school whose entrance  
10 requirements and course of instruction have been approved by the Council on  
11 Medical Education of the American Medical Association; a Canadian eclectic  
12 medical school which has been approved by the Council on Medical Education of  
13 the National Eclectic Medical Association; or a foreign medical school whose  
14 entrance requirements and course of instruction have been approved by the  
15 Arkansas State Medical Board; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the eligibility requirements for the Community Match Rural  
18 Physician Recruitment Program limit the pool of possible participating  
19 physicians while the Arkansas State Medical Board allows additional  
20 physicians to practice in Arkansas; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the majority of the Arkansas is medically underserved pursuant  
23 to the standards of the Department of Health; and  
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25           WHEREAS, additional physicians that could be recruited under the  
26 Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program if the eligibility  
27 requirements were broadened could help reduce the medically underserved areas  
28 across the state; and  
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30           WHEREAS, for the health of its citizens, the General Assembly should  
31 pursue efforts to improve and increase access to health care by utilizing the  
32 Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program and similar programs to  
33 their full capabilities,  
34

35 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF  
2 THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

3  
4 THAT the House Committee On Public Health, Welfare, And Labor study the  
5 needs for changes to the Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program  
6 to improve and increase access to health care in medically underserved areas.  
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8 Respectfully submitted,

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12 Representative Mary Bentley  
13 District 73

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16 By: JMB/JMB  
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