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### NRHA Statement of Support on the Healthcare Group Purchasing Initiative

Group purchasing organizations (GPOs) assist in providing access to the best drugs, supplies and medical devices at the lowest possible prices. In the healthcare marketplace, where competition and innovation are essential, GPOs help assure that providers and patients alike benefit from important medical technologies while also controlling costs.

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) supports the new Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative. We believe this new initiative will promote a fair and open marketplace for suppliers, patient access to high quality medical products and services, and significant cost containment for rural hospitals and other rural providers.

America's leading GPOs have embraced greater transparency and accountability, and we applaud them for their leadership in this effort. We are confident that the Initiative serves the best interests of the nation's rural healthcare community.

The NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization of more than 8,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues. The association's mission is to improve the health of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. The NRHA membership is made up of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

Please do not hesitate to contact Alan Morgan, Interim Executive Director at 703-519-7910 if you have any questions.