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Meeting with Congressman Huelskamp were: Joe Stratton, CEO, Geary Community Hospital; David Dick, CEO, Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems; Roger Masse, CEO, Ellsworth County Medical Center; Ron Bender, CEO, Clay County Medical Center; Dave Engel, CEO, Phillips County Hospital; Mike Burroughs, CEO, Western Plains Medical Complex; Larry Van Der Wege, CEO, Lindsborg Community Hospital; Allen Van Driel, CEO, Smith County Hospital; George Stover, CEO, Rice County Hospital; Blaine Miller, CEO, Republic County Hospital; Jeremy Armstrong, CEO, St. Luke Hospital & Living Center; and Michael Terry, CEO, Salina Regional Health Center.

Courtesy photo

- Special to the Leader & Times

SALINA – Congressman Tim Huelskamp (KS-01) met with twelve Hospital Administrators from

across the state Friday to discuss a range of topics that included the effects of ObamaCare on hospitals, "Doc Fix" legislation, and the hurdles that Critical Access Hospitals face today.

After the meeting, Congressman Huelskamp released this statement:

"The meeting today was very productive," Huelskamp said. "I was able to hear testimonies of how rural hospitals are trying to cope with the onslaught of regulations and uncertainty coming down from Washington. Unfortunately, much of the Obama Administration seems to be out of touch with the needs of health care in rural America.

"Just yesterday, HHS issued a study that contains recommendations that, if implemented, would be devastating to the viability of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in Kansas," Huelskamp continued. "Essentially, this would be the death nail for many of our rural hospitals. I will take what I heard today back to Washington and continue the fight against burdensome and unnecessary regulations that are crushing our rural hospitals."

Link to the study: <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-05-12-00080.pdf>

Tom Bell, President and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association said, "The delivery of rural health care is becoming more challenging in today's environment. Congressman Huelskamp recognizes these difficulties and has become an active voice in reducing the regulatory burdens that health care providers face. His support of legislation that minimizes the barriers to delivering quality and accessible health care is essential and appreciated."

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