

# Heartland Health Caucus

As a result of a landmark Heartland Forward report entitled: Health Care Access in the Heartland: How to Improve Services in Rural America, we have launched the Heartland Health Caucus to bring together the top public policy decision makers focused on health care in eight states – Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Focus areas include: maternal health, mental health and health care workforce shortages.

## WHAT WE DO

The Caucus serves as a forum for a select group of leaders, including lawmakers and executive branch officials in Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee to exchange new ideas in addressing pressing health issues and accelerating new and consistent policy approaches across states.

### DEVELOP PROPOSALS TO SIMPLIFY THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Advance state public policy and initiatives to decrease the complexities patients face in accessing health care within their communities.

### ADVANCE LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS HEARTLAND HEALTH NEEDS

Develop model legislation to solve for pressing issues. Initial areas of focus include: maternal health, mental health and workforce.

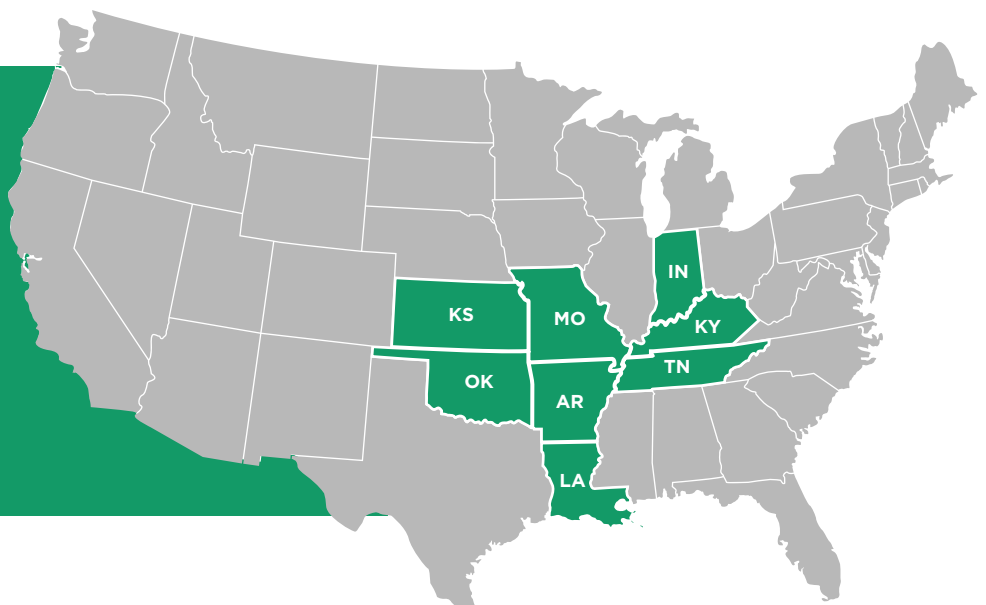
### CHAMPION HEALTH AS AN ECONOMIC ISSUE

Support legislation, programs and thought leadership to highlight how a healthier population will lead to a robust workforce and thriving communities.

### WHAT HEARTLAND LEADERS ARE SAYING

We must solve for maternal health, mental wellness and workforce shortages.

Caucus members are leading the way to solve for these issues and more.



# HEARTLAND HEALTH DATA AND RESOURCES

Heartland Forward released, [Health Care Access in the Heartland](#), a study on how to improve health outcomes in heartland communities by improving access to care.

## THE REPORT INCLUDED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increasing **affordability** and reducing complexity of the health care system.
- Addressing health care shortages by increasing access to **telehealth**.
- Bolstering the **health care workforce** through increasing the labor supply, streamlining occupational licensure and expanding the scope of practice.



## RESOURCES FOR POLICYMAKERS INCLUDE:

- [The Policy Roadmap](#), lays out an agenda for policy modernization. Because of the complexity of our current health care system, there is not one policy that will fix everything. The policy roadmap suggests key pieces to start with as we solve the specific challenges and needs.
- [The Rural Health Care Accessibility Atlas](#), has been designed as an interactive tool where users can find detailed information on health indicators, such as residents' lifespans at the state and county level.
- [The Health Care Workforce Tool](#), shows the health care labor market data for 31 health care occupations in the six states studied.

## CONNECT WITH US!

To learn more about Heartland Forward's report, Health Care Access in the Heartland, visit: [heartlandforward.org/case-study/rural-health-care-access](https://heartlandforward.org/case-study/rural-health-care-access)

To get in touch with the Heartland Health Caucus, please email: Maria Rodriguez-Alcala, [malcala@heartlandforward.org](mailto:malcala@heartlandforward.org)

## ABOUT US

The Caucus is an initiative of **Heartland Forward**, a think and do tank that works to be a resource for states and local communities to help advance the heartland's economic potential.

