

**From:** Alison Renner [mailto:Renner@nrharural.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2008 11:27 AM  
**To:** Burris, Thelma  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you!

Thelma,

Yours was one of a number of emails I received about yesterday's call, and I just wanted to ask if you would mind being quoted in an enews story about the call and about Senator Lincoln. The first paragraph of your email really summed up the way so many people felt after the call. Just let me know if it's ok if I include a sentence or two and have a great day! Thanks!

Ali Renner  
Government Affairs and Policy Staff Assistant  
National Rural Health Association  
1108 K Street NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 639-0550  
[www.NRHAarural.org](http://www.NRHAarural.org)

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**From:** Burris, Thelma [mailto:tburris@vcom.vt.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2008 4:16 PM  
**To:** Alison Renner  
**Cc:** glen.sink@cfv.org; O'Connor, Beth  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you!

Hi Allison,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in Senator Lincoln's conference call. I marveled at her enthusiasm, and at the passion she has for 'rural' needs. Anyone who questioned her as a "Champion for Healthcare" could not have heard her speak. I was also very impressed with the way providers from across the nation celebrated this victory! Reason, after reason was given, but they all focused on stronger healthcare for rural America. This type passion and involvement can change Rural America!!!

The Center & Council for Rural Virginia is an office neighbor to the Virginia Rural Health Association and works collaboratively with Beth O'Connor, [VRHA](http://www.vrha.org) Executive Director, on a number of projects. Healthcare is one of the Center Council's chief causes as noted in our competencies [www.cfrv.org](http://www.cfrv.org), and it is at the top of the agenda for Virginia's 2008 Rural Summit. Our plan is to drill down challenges to the point we have a strong policy position to take to the 2009 Virginia General Assembly.

During today's conference call, I had planned to ask Senator Lincoln to support the *Rural Compact*. But, as folks celebrated this victory at hand, it seemed better to address it separately. The [Rural Compact](http://www.ruralcompact.org) looks at principles for building stronger rural communities and a stronger nation. ***When rural prospers so does the nation!*** One of the four components of the rural Compact is ***access to good, affordable healthcare of all Americans***. Glen sink, Executive Director, of the Center Council has been working with this endeavor through the Partners for Rural America and at the 2008 National Rural Assembly. Our passion and work is to make rural Virginia strong; thus, we believe state by state we can make rural America strong; therefore, we invite Senator Lincoln to support the Rural Compact.

May I ask, "Will you forward this email to Senator Lincoln and her staff as appropriate?"

Again, thank you,  
Thelma

Thelma Burris  
Program Coordinator



[tburris@vcom.vt.edu](mailto:tburris@vcom.vt.edu)  
2265 Kraft Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

540-231-8222

[www.cfrv.org](http://www.cfrv.org)

"Forming partnerships to improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth's rural areas"

**From:** Alison Renner [mailto:Renner@nrharural.org]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2008 3:21 PM

**Subject:** Thank you!

Thank you all for taking the time to participate in today's call with Senator Lincoln! Your involvement in the advocacy process makes all the difference. Thanks to the efforts and Senator Lincoln and people like you, we achieved a major victory for rural health this week.

Thank you!

Ali Renner

Government Affairs and Policy Staff Assistant

National Rural Health Association

1108 K Street NW, Second Floor

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 639-0550

[www.NRHArural.org](http://www.NRHArural.org)