



January 4, 2016

Virginia Brennan, Ph.D., M.A.,
Editor
Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved
Meharry Medical College
1005 D. B. Todd Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37208

Dear Dr. Brennan,

Please consider our manuscript "Rural Access to Healthcare: Will the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Make a Difference?" for publication as a commentary article in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. This article reviews literature on rural healthcare access, barriers, and use to determine what, if any, effects the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) will have on the poor and underserved. This work represents a valuable contribution to our understanding of healthcare availability research in the U.S. We feel the findings and applications of this work would be of particular interest to your readership, given the controversial and ongoing debate on healthcare. We feel this work represents a significant advancement in understanding of legislative impacts on the availability of healthcare to poor and underserved populations.

This manuscript contains original research utilizing previously published literature and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. All coauthors have approved of this manuscript, have been actively involved, and hold themselves fully responsible for the content.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Andrew G. Huff, Ph.D., M.S.
Senior Scientist
EcoHealth Alliance