

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

We the undersigned—including more than 500 national health care organizations, state primary care associations, and community health centers—write today to urge you to take final action on a bipartisan investment that has wide support across both parties and chambers in Congress: increased funding for federally qualified health centers (FQHCs).

We are grateful for the temporary extension of the mandatory Community Health Center Fund included in H.R.5860, *the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act*, which otherwise would have lapsed on September 30. This extension reflects Congress' recognition that FQHCs provide vital, life-saving services in their communities, and cannot afford to go a day without federal support.

We also greatly appreciate the work undertaken in both the House and the Senate to find bipartisan consensus on funding increases for health centers. Both the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions (HELP) Committee have reported out bipartisan Community Health Center Fund reauthorizations that meaningfully increase funding for community health centers. Further, the *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act*, H.R. 5378, a bipartisan health care package from the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Workforce, also reauthorizes the health center fund with a significant increase in funding.

At this time of unprecedented financial challenges for health centers, it is critical that the Community Health Center Fund be reauthorized at the highest possible level. As you consider final funding levels for the health care programs that need to be reauthorized this year, **we urge you to reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund using the funding levels included in the Senate HELP Committee's *Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*, S. 2840.** This investment of \$5.8 billion per year for three years has the greatest potential to sufficiently support patient care, shore up struggling health centers, and set our country on a path to improved health outcomes for all communities.

With robust, stable, predictable funding, FQHCs can truly transform their communities. Sophisticated interdisciplinary care teams provide the gold standard of primary care to all who seek it, regardless of ability to pay. Each year, they consistently meet more than 30 million patients' clinical and social needs in order to help them lead healthy and productive lives.

Increased sustained funding will also result in an even higher return on investment to the federal government. Across several metrics, FQHCs are the best investment you can make in health care. In 2021, community health centers were estimated to save a total of \$25.3 billion for the Medicaid and Medicare programs.¹ In 2019, community health centers generated \$63.4 billion in economic activity, of which \$32 billion were indirect economic impacts generated from supporting local businesses.² For every dollar of federal funding invested in community health centers, \$11 is generated in total economic activity through increased spending on related health service expenses, food services, transportation, construction, and more.³

Unfortunately, continued uncertainty around the level and duration of a reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund is already harming health centers and their patients. In addition to addressing ongoing mental health and maternal mortality crises and steadily increasing patient populations, FQHCs are facing an ongoing workforce shortage and continued erosion of 340B program savings. Additionally, loss of coverage for millions of patients due to Medicaid program redeterminations is resulting in declining revenue for health centers. Without the backstop of the Community Health Center Fund, health centers would be forced to close sites, lay off staff, and cut back service hours. Without the certainty that this Fund will be available in the coming years, it is more difficult to finance large projects or engage in meaningful long-term planning.

Amidst difficult negotiations on a number of pressing issues, securing a significant, sustained increase for health centers is one issue that everyone—Democrats and Republicans, Senators and Representatives—can agree on. Such an investment would meaningfully benefit patients, communities, and our nation’s health.

Once again, we urge you to reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund at \$5.8 billion annually for three years. For more information or to discuss this further, please direct your staff to contact Stephanie Krenrich, SVP for Policy and Government Affairs at Advocates for Community Health, at skrenrich@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Community Health
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Teaching Health Centers
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
CancerCare
Epilepsy Foundation
Families USA

¹ Robert Nocon (Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine). “Testimony on Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.” (March 02, 2023).

² “Community Health Centers Are Economic Engines” (National Association of Community Health Centers, October 2020), <https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Economic-Impact-Infographic-2.pdf>.

³ Health Centers Provide Cost Effective Care” (National Association of Community Health Centers, July 2015), http://nachc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/06/Cost-Effectiveness_FS_2015.pdf.

Fight Colorectal Cancer
First Focus Campaign for Children
Health Choice Care
Health Choice Community Partners
Health Choice Network
National Association of Counties
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Rural Health Association
OCHIN
Prevent Cancer Foundation

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama:

Alabama Primary Health Care Association
AIDS Action Coalition of Huntsville dba Thrive Alabama
Roundbell International Services Inc.
Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.

Alaska:

Alaska Primary Care Association
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
Camai Community Health Center/Bristol Bay Borough
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Kodiak Community Health Center

Arizona:

Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.
Circle the City
El Rio Health
Mariposa Community Health Center
MHC Healthcare
Mountain Park Health Center
Sun Life Health
Sunset Community Health Center, Inc.
Terros Health
Wesley Community & Health Centers

Arkansas:

Community Health Centers of Arkansas
Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.
East Arkansas Family Health Center

California:

California Primary Care Association
Achievable Health
Aghaby Comprehensive Community Health
Alameda Health Consortium
Altura Centers for Health
Ampla Health
Anderson Valley Health Center
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)
Axis Community Health
Bay Area Community Health
Brighter Beginnings
Center for Family Health and Education, Inc.
Central Neighborhood Health Foundation
Centro Medico Community Clinic
CommuniCare+OLE
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
Community Health Partnership
Community Medical Centers
Community Medical Wellness Centers, USA
Coppertower Family Medical Center, Inc. dba: Alexander Valley Healthcare
Family HealthCare Network
Golden Valley Health Centers
Greater Fresno Health Organization, Inc.
Health Alliance of Northern California
Health and Life Organization, Inc.
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley
Inland Behavioral and Health Services, Inc.
Innercare
La Clinica de La Raza
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc.
Lifelong Medical Care, Inc.
North Coast Clinics Network
North East Medical Services (NEMS)
Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Open Door Community Health Centers
Ravenswood Family Health Network
Redwood Coast Medical Services
Redwoods Rural Health Center
Samuel Dixon Family Health Center, Inc.
San Diego American Indian Health Center
San Diego Family Care
San Fernando Community Health Center
San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium
San Ysidro Health
Santa Cruz Community Health Centers
Share Our Selves
Shasta Community Health Center

Shingletown Medical Center
Sonoma Valley Community Health Center
South Central Family Health Center (SCFHC)
South of Market Health Center
St. John's Community Health
St. Jude Neighborhood Health Centers
TrueCare
Westside Family Health Center

Colorado:

Colorado Community Health Network
Axis Health System
Clinica Family Health
Denver Health's Community Health Services
Mountain Family Health Centers
Peak Vista Community Health Centers
Pueblo Community Health Center
Sunrise Community Health
Uncompahgre Combined Clinics
Valley-Wide Health Systems Inc.

Connecticut:

Community Health Center Association of Connecticut
Community Health Center, Inc.
Community Health Services, Inc.
First Choice Health Centers, Inc.
Generations Family Health Center, Inc.
InterCommunity Health Care
Norwalk Community Health Center
Southwest Community Health Center
Staywell Health Center
Wheeler

Delaware:

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
La Red Health Center, Inc.
Westside Family Healthcare

District of Columbia:

District of Columbia Primary Care Association
Unity Health Care, Inc.
Whitman-Walker Health

Florida:

Florida Association of Community Health Centers
Banyan Health Systems
Bond Community Health Center, Inc.
Borinquen Health Care Center, Inc.

Broward Community and Family Health Centers
Care Resource Community Health Centers, Inc.
Central Florida Family Health Center, Inc.
Central Florida Health Care
Citrus Health Network, Inc.
Community Health of South Florida, Inc.
Empower U Community Health Center
Evara Health
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Florida Community Health Centers, Inc.
FoundCare, Inc.
Genesis Community Health, Inc.
Health Choice Network of Florida
Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc.
Miami Beach Community Health Center
North Florida Medical Centers, Inc.
Premier Community HealthCare
Project Health, Inc dba Langley Health Services
Rural Health Care, Inc. d/b/a Aza Health
Sulzbacher
Tampa Family Health Centers, Inc.
Treasure Coast Community Health, Inc.
Trenton Medical Center, Inc.

Georgia:

Georgia Primary Care Association
Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.
Athens Neighborhood Health Center
Christ Community Health Services, Augusta
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care, Inc.
First Choice Primary Care
Georgia Highlands Medical Services
Georgia Mountains Health
Good Samaritan Health Center of Cobb, Inc.
McKinney Medical Center, Inc.
MedCura Health
Meridian Education Resource Group, dba Whitefoord Inc.
Neighborhood Improvement Project, Inc.
North Georgia Health Care Center
Palmetto Health Council, Inc.
Primary Care of Southwest Georgia
Primary Health Care Center of Dade, Inc.
South Central Primary Care Center, Inc.
Southside Medical Center, Inc.
Southwest Georgia Healthcare Clinics, Inc.
The Family Health Center of Georgia, Inc.

Hawaii:

Hawaii Primary Care Association
Hawaii Island Community Health Center
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Lanai Community Health Center
Waikiki Health
Waimanalo Health Center

Idaho:

Full Circle Health, Inc.
Grand Peaks
Health West, Inc.
Heritage Health

Illinois:

Grand Prairie Services
Greater Family Health
Howard Brown Health
Legacy Medical Care
Near North Health
PrimeCare Community Health
Promise Healthcare
SIHF Healthcare
SIU Center for Family Medicine

Indiana:

Indiana Primary Health Care Association
Jane Pauley Community Health Center
Knox Winamac Community Health Centers
Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc.
Riggs Community Health Center
Valley Professionals Community Health Center, Inc.
Windrose Health Network, Inc.

Iowa:

Iowa Primary Care Association
All Care Health Center
Community Health Care, Inc.
Community Health Center of Fort Dodge, Inc.
Crescent Community Health Center
Eastern Iowa Health Center
Proteus, Inc.
United Community Health Center

Kansas:

Community Care Network of Kansas
Atchison Community Health Clinic
CareArc, Inc.

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc.
Health Partnership Clinic, Inc.
Heartland Community Health Center
PrairieStar Health Center
Salina Family Healthcare Center
Swope Health
Vibrant Health

Kentucky:

Kentucky Primary Care Association
Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.
Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.
Dayspring Health
Family Health Centers, Inc.
Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation

Louisiana:

Louisiana Primary Care Association
AcadianaCares
Catahoula Parish Hospital District #2
Common Ground Health Clinic
EXCELth, Inc.
Mercy Medical Health Center
NOELA Community Health Center
Odyssey House Louisiana, Inc.
Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciana, Inc.
Southeast Community Health Systems
Teche Action Clinic
Trinity Community Health Centers of Louisiana

Maine:

Maine Primary Care Association
Eastport Health Care, Inc.
Hometown Health Center
Penobscot Community Health Care
Portland Community Health Center
Sacopee Valley Health Center

Maryland:

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Baltimore Medical System, Inc.
CCI Health Services
Chase Brexton Health Care
Greater Baden Medical Services
Mobile Medical Care, Inc.
Owensville Primary Care, Inc. d/b/a Bay Community Health
Park West Health System, Inc.

Spring Branch Community Health Center

Massachusetts:

Coalition for a Better Acre
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
Family Health Center of Worcester
Harbor Health Services, Inc.
Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center
Lowell Community Health Center
New Bedford Community Health
South Cove Community Health Center
Transhealth
Upham's Corner Health Committee, Inc.
Whittier Street Health Center

Michigan:

Michigan Primary Care Association
Advantage Health
Alcona Citizens for Health
Family Health Center
Ingham Community Health Centers
MyCare Health Center

Minnesota:

Community University Health Care Center
Minnesota Community Care
Native American Community Clinic
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
United Family Medicine

Mississippi:

Community Health Center Association of Mississippi
Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc.
Central Mississippi Health Services, Inc.
Coastal Family Health Center
Family Health Care Clinic, Inc.
G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc.
Mallory Community Health Center
Outreach Health Services, Inc.

Missouri:

Missouri Primary Care Association
Advocates for A Healthy Community
Affinia Healthcare
Big Springs Medical Assoc Inc dba Missouri Highlands Health Care
Central Ozarks Medical Center (COMC)
Family Care Health Centers
Fordland Clinic, Inc.

Four Rivers Community Health Center
Great Mines Health Center
Hope Family Care Center, LLC
Jordan Valley Community Health Center
Katy Trail Community Health
Ozark Tri-County Healthcare Consortium DBA ACCESS Family Care
Swope Health

Montana:

One Health
RiverStone Health Clinic

Nebraska:

Bluestem Health
Charles Drew Health Center, Inc.
OneWorld Community Health Centers

Nevada:

Nevada Primary Care Association
Community Health Alliance
First Person Care Clinic
Northern Nevada HOPES

New Hampshire:

Bi-State Primary Care Association
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS)
Amoskeag Health
Coos County Family Health Services
Greater Seacoast Community Health
Harbor Care
Lamprey Health Care
Mid-State Health Center
White Mountain Community Health Center

New Jersey:

Alliance Community Healthcare, Inc.
CompleteCare Health Network
Neighborhood Health Services Corporation
North Hudson Community Action Corporation
Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers

New Mexico:

De Baca Family Practice Clinic
First Choice Community Healthcare
Hidalgo Medical Services
La Casa Family Health Center
Presbyterian Medical Services
Southwest Care Center

New York:

Anthony L. Jordan Health Corp (Jordan Health)
Apicha Community Health Center
Beacon Christian Community Health Center
Betances Health Center
BronxCare Health Integrated Services System, Inc.
Care For the Homeless
Community Health Center of Richmond, Inc.
Community Health Initiatives, Inc.
Ezra Medical Center
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
Family Health Network of Central New York, Inc.
Jericho Road Community Health Center
Morris Heights Health Center
NYC H+H / Gotham Health
Open Door Family Medical Center
Southern Tier CHCN/Universal Primary Care
Sun River Health
Syracuse Community Health
The Chautauqua Center, Inc.
VIP Community Services, Inc.
Vocational Instruction Project Community Services
Whitney Young Health

North Carolina:

North Carolina Community Health Center Association
Agape Health Services
Black River Health Services, Inc.
C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc.
CommWell Health
Goshen Medical Center, Inc.
MedNorth Health Center
Person Family Medical Center, Inc.
Piedmont Health Services, Inc.
Remarkable Leadership Lessons, Inc.
Stedman-Wade Health Services, Inc.
Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine, Inc.
West Caldwell Health Council, Inc.

Ohio:

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
Christian Community Health Services dba Crossroad Health Center
Community Health & Wellness Partners
Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton
Fairfield Community Health Center
Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio
Five Rivers Health Centers
Health Partners of Western Ohio

Knox County Community Health Center
Lorain County Health & Dentistry
Muskingum Valley Health Centers
Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc
Ohio Hills Health Centers
PrimaryOne Health
Signature Health, Inc.
SpringVale Health Centers, Inc.
The HealthCare Connection
Third Street Family Health Services
Valley View Health Centers

Oklahoma:

Fairfax Medical Facilities, Inc.
Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma, Inc.
Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.
Pushmataha Family Medical Center, Inc.
South Central Medical Center
Stigler Health and Wellness Center, Inc.

Oregon:

Oregon Primary Care Association
Aviva Health
Cascade AIDS Project & Prism Health
Mosaic Community Health
Nehalem Bay Health Center & Pharmacy
Neighborhood Health Center
Northwest Human Services, Inc.
The Wallace Medical Concern
Winding Waters Clinic
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Pennsylvania:

BTAMC, Inc.
Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.
Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley
Southern Tier CHCN/Universal Primary Care
Spectrum Health Services, Inc.
The Wright Center for Community Health

Puerto Rico:

Centro Servicios Primarios de Salud-Patillas Inc.
Corporacion SANOS
Servicios de Salud Primarios de Barceloneta, Inc.
Salud Integral en la Montana

Rhode Island:

Providence Community Health Centers

Wood River Health

South Carolina:

South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
Careteam Plus Family Health and Specialty Care
Fetter Health Care Network
Genesis Health Care, Inc.
HopeHealth
Little River Medical Center
Rural Health Services, Inc.

South Dakota:

Complete Health

Tennessee:

Tennessee Primary Care Association
Cherokee Health Systems
Christ Community Health Services, Inc.
Dayspring Health
Hardeman County Community Health Center
Lifespan Health (Hardin County Regional Health Center)
Mountain People's Health Councils, Inc.
Rural Health Services Consortium, Inc.

Texas:

Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic
Bee Busy Wellness Center
Brownsville Community Health Center
Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation
Community Health Center of Lubbock, Inc.
Foremost Family Health Centers
Gulf Coast Health Center, Inc.
Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston
Legacy Community Health
Lone Star Circle of Care
Longview Wellness Center, Inc. dba Wellness Pointe
North Central Texas Community Health Care Center
North Texas Area Community Health Center
Nuestra Clinica del Valle, Inc.
Project Vida Health Center
Shackelford County Community Resource Center DBA/ResourceCare
Stephen F. Austin Community Health Center, Inc.
Su Clinica Familiar
United Medical Centers

Utah:

Association for Utah Community Health
Carbon Medical Service Association, Inc.

Community Health Centers, Inc.
Health West, Inc.
Midtown Community Health Center
Southwest Utah Community Health Center dba Family Healthcare
Utah Partners for Health

Vermont:

Bi-State Primary Care Association
Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region, Inc.
Five-Town Health Alliance, Inc.
Gifford Health Care
Lamoille Health Partners
Little Rivers Health Care
Northern Counties Health Care
Notch

Virginia:

Virginia Community Healthcare Association
Blue Ridge Medical Center
Central Virginia Health Services
Community Access Network
Daily Planet Health Services
GPW Health Center
Healthy Community Health Centers
Horizon Health Services, Inc.
Neighborhood Health
Rockbridge Area Health Center
Southern Dominion Health System, Inc.
Stony Creek Community Health Center
Tri-Area Community Health

Washington:

Cascade AIDS Project & Prism Health
CHC of Snohomish County
Columbia Basin Health Association
Columbia Valley Community Health
Community Health Care
Community Health Care of Tacoma
HealthPoint
Health West Inc.
International Community Health Services
Neighborcare Health
North Olympic Healthcare Network
Peninsula Community Health Services
Sea Mar Community Health Centers
Seattle Indian Health Board
Tri-Cities Community Health
Unity Care Northwest

Valley View Health Center
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

West Virginia:

Cabin Creek Health Systems
Coplin Health Systems
E.A. Hawse Health Center, Inc.
Minnie Hamilton Health System

Wisconsin:

Marshfield Clinic Health System
Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.
Progressive Community Health Centers

Wyoming:

Wyoming Primary Care Association
CAP Natrona County/Healthcare for the Homeless
Community Action of Laramie County/CHC
Community Health Center of Central Wyoming

Additional United States Territories:

Pacific Islands Primary Care Association (Representing Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern
Marianas Islands (CNMI), Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall
Islands (RMI), and American Samoa)
Ebeye Community Health Center (Republic of the Marshall Islands)
Wa'ab Community Health Center (Federated States of Micronesia)