**SENATE VERSION**

*This letter was written for the Senate. Please place this letter on official letterhead, fill in the highlighted sections with information about your health center and mail the letter to his/her office in Washington, DC. Please send a copy of this letter via e-mail to* *advocacy@healthplusadvocates.org**. You may contact Andrea Chavez at* *andrea@healthplusadvocates.org* *or (916) 503-9130 with any questions or comments.*

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT NAME/TITLE]

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator [INSERT NAME],

I write today on behalf of {INSERT ORGANIZATION}, and the XX patients we serve in {INSERT LOCATION}. We ask that you remain in strong opposition to any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), particularly the Better Care Reconciliation Act recently released by the Senate. As you know, the ACA is working in California, bringing care and coverage to over five million people and building the quality of our health care delivery system. Community health centers such as X play a central role in the success of the ACA, and have worked feverishly to meet the needs of the newly insured. To take away that coverage is to devastate our most vulnerable populations and destabilize California’s health care system.

Rolling back the Medicaid Expansion, capping Medicaid programs, reducing subsidies, and removing Essential Health Benefits will have the net impact of further isolating and hampering health, wellness and opportunity for our most vulnerable communities, not to mention eliminating jobs, increasing financial instability among your constituents, and destabilizing the economy. Increasing the number of uninsured will have a negative financial impact on our health delivery system, and on XX health center. Before the ACA was implemented our operating margins were XX, after the ACA when XX % of our patient’s secured coverage, our operating margins went up to XX. With this stabilized payer mix after the ACA, we added XX jobs and XX new clinic sites/exam rooms. If Congress is successful in repealing the ACA, there will be no way for our health center to sustain such a dramatic increase in uninsured except to [INSERT APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE].

Since the implementation of the ACA, {INSERT HEALTH CENTER} has seen an XX% increase in Medicaid beneficiaries who for the first time in a long time had access to primary care as well as comprehensive insurance coverage. The ACA brought California’s communities unhindered access to quality medical, dental, and behavioral health services, bringing peace of mind to your constituents, and stabilizing the health care delivery system and local economies that depend on a healthy, strong population.

On another critical note, we strongly oppose the removal of Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program for a year. Planned Parenthood’s California affiliates serve over 850,000 patients per year with over 1.5 million visits. Planned Parenthood is a vital part of the safety net health care network in California, and community health centers in California simply do not have the excess capacity to absorb all of Planned Parenthood’s patients. We ask that you continue to advocate against this ill-conceived provision.

The Better Care Reconciliation Act is not a replacement for the ACA, and according to the Congressional Budget Office would ultimately lead to 22 million people losing coverage by 2026. ***We ask that you strenuously oppose this bill and other efforts to repeal the ACA without an adequate replacement.***

We would love to have you and your staff visit health centers anywhere in the state and would be happy to arrange a tour whenever your schedule allows. National Health Center Week is coming up- XXXX. We would love to have you in attendance. Please let us know if we can help connect you. Thank you again for your continued support for health centers and the health of California’s most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,