

## Support Community Health Centers

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in signing the attached letter to Chairman Roy Blunt and Ranking Member Patty Murray encouraging the Senate Appropriation Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to continue support for the Health Centers Program in FY2018.

Community Health Centers are local-controlled, non-profit entities that provide primary care, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services in our most underserved rural and urban areas. There are over 1,400 health centers operating in almost 10,000 communities nationwide, serving roughly 25 million Americans who otherwise would not have access to care. Health Centers serve as the "health care home" for our most vulnerable populations, including one in five of America's uninsured, one-third of those living in poverty, and one in six Medicaid beneficiaries. More than 7 million children and over 300,000 veterans get their health care at Community Health Centers. In total, Health Centers now provide nearly 100 million coordinated and integrated patient visits every year in all 50 states and almost every Congressional district.

Health Centers specialize in providing cost-effective and high-quality primary and preventative health care that annually **saves the health care system \$24 billion, largely due to their success reducing the need for patients to seek care in costlier settings like emergency departments.**

Today there are 62 million people who lack access to regular and dependable primary care across the country. In many communities without a Health Center, underserved Americans have little or no access to primary care. For almost 10,000 communities currently served by Health Centers, federal investments play an integral role in supporting the comprehensive and integrated range of health and social services they provide.

We ask that you join us in supporting Health Centers as a proven and cost-effective solution to America's health care access challenges and invest in Health Centers to strengthen primary care capacity. Please contact Sarah Lloyd Stevenson with Sen. Wicker at [SarahLloyd\\_Stevenson@Wicker.senate.gov](mailto:SarahLloyd_Stevenson@Wicker.senate.gov) or Lorenzo Rubalcava with Sen. Stabenow at [Lorenzo\\_Rubalcava@Stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:Lorenzo_Rubalcava@Stabenow.senate.gov) to sign the letter.

Sincerely,

Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator