LETTER TO THE EDITOR (SAMPLE)

Word Count 248

The waiting room of our Community Health Center is thousands of miles from the U.S. Capitol, but what happens under that dome is affecting our patients’ health.

Right now, as a part of the Health Centers Program, [NAME OF YOUR HEALTH CENTER] is subject to a program funding cut of 70 percent that took effect October 1. We have to make hard choices to save costs and keep our doors open. [USE THIS SPACE TO DESCRIBE HOW THE FUNDING CLIFF IS AFFECTING YOUR HEALTH CENTER NOW]. Our health center is not alone. The federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) itself has projected that the impact of the funding cliff will result in the closure of 2,800 health center locations, elimination of more than 50,000 jobs, and a loss of access to care for more than 9 million patients.

The irony is that fixing the funding cliff is something most lawmakers agree on beyond party lines. Lawmakers in the House and Senate have even introduced bipartisan legislation to extend funding for health centers and other programs. We are also grateful for the leadership of XX [NAME OF CONGRESSMAN OR SENATOR WHO HAVE COSIGNED OR INTRODUCED CHIME ACT]. Yet, time is running out and so is the money we need to continue caring for patients. We are working against a host of factors that include a ticking clock and a busy legislative calendar

Let’s hope Congress takes action now to fix the funding cliff. Our health depends on it.