



HEALTH CENTER PARTNERS
of Southern California



September 20, 2017

The Honorable Raul Ruiz – CA 36
The Honorable Mark Takano – CA 41
The Honorable Ken Calvert – CA 42
The Honorable Darrell Issa – CA 49

The Honorable Duncan Hunter – CA 50
The Honorable Juan Vargas – CA 51
The Honorable Scott Peters – CA 52
The Honorable Susan Davis – CA 53

Re: FQHC Funding Cliff

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the health centers representing San Diego, Riverside and Imperial County are writing today because we're concerned that, in a matter of days, every Health Center in America faces a funding cliff. On September 30, the Community Health Centers Fund will expire – accounting for 70% of our federal funding, and ALL funding for critical workforce programs like the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers program. The recently approved Continuing Resolution does NOT automatically extend this funding – we need your help in Congress to specifically act to extend it. We cannot afford the uncertainty that missing this deadline (or a short-term extension) will bring because we need to be able to recruit providers, secure bank loans, and plan. **We know you are a supporter of Community Health Centers and now we need your help to get this done.**

Nationally, HHS estimates that the Community Health Center Funding Cliff will lead to the closure of some 2,800 Health Center locations, elimination of more than 50,000 jobs, and most importantly, a loss of access to care for some 9 million patients. Combined for our health centers, we can tell that the impact will require tough decisions about:

- Clinic Site closures,
- Loss of patient access, and
- Significant Staff Reductions

This level of impact doesn't only hurt us – it will end up hurting our entire community, our local economy and driving up the cost of health care as more patients turn to the emergency room for access. **Collectively, we serve nearly 900,000 Southern California residents, and this funding cut equates to a collective loss of \$44 million dollars** – resources that are being used to provide comprehensive care to residents in these 3 counties.



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We are asking that, before September 30th, Congress extend the Health Centers Fund for at least five years, with at least current funding levels in place. Taking this action now is critical to our ability to plan, to recruit, and to continue offering care to our community without disruption. Today we're imploring you to take a specific, public action to move us toward a solution.

The most immediate help would be joining a group of bi-partisan Representatives as a Co-Sponsor to H.R. 3770, the Community Health Improvement, Modernization & Excellence (CHIME) Act of 2017.

Another way to show your support is by releasing a public statement on the value of community health centers in your districts and the urgency of providing funding for the new year. A quick speech on the House Floor raises awareness with your Congressional colleagues and House Leadership, while a statement on social media raises awareness with the public. We think all three options are necessary.

As a supporter of Health Centers, please let us know what actions you are prepared to take to get this done, and when we can follow up. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Vernita Todd at vtodd@hcpsocal.org or 619-542-4334.

We're counting on you - as are the hundreds of thousands of patients we serve in your combined districts.

Sincerely,

The Membership of Health Center Partners of Southern California

Borrego Health
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Inc.
Community Health Systems, Inc.
Imperial Beach Health Center
Indian Health Council, Inc.
La Maestra Community Health Centers
Mountain Health
Neighborhood Healthcare
North County Health Services

Operation Samahan Health Centers
Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
San Diego American Indian Health Center
San Diego Family Care
San Ysidro Health Center
Southern Indian Health Council, Inc.
Sycuan Medical/Dental Clinic
Vista Community Clinic



**HEALTH CENTER
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FQHCs of San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties

Bruce Heberts

Borrego Community Health Foundation

Yvonne Bell

Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo

Roni Helman

Community Health Systems, Inc.

Constance Kunt

Imperial Beach Community Clinic

Sumita Patel

Indian Health Council, Inc.

Zora Martinez
LMFC Inc.

La Maestra Health Centers

Judith Kaplan

Mountain Health &
Community Services

Tracy Dean

Neighborhood Healthcare

Anna Cota

North County Health Services

Dave D. Fick

Operation Samahan

Damir Johnson

Planned Parenthood
of the Pacific Southwest

Joe Bulfer

San Diego American Indian
Health Center

Roberta L. Feinberg

San Diego Family Care

K. Mott

San Ysidro Health Center

Carla

Southern Indian Health Council

John M.

Sycuan Medical Dental Care

Fernando M. Damico

Vista Community Clinic

Hung H. Tran

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