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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California's Community Health Centers Are at Risk of Losing Funds Unless Congress Acts, Health Centers will lose 70% of funding by October 1

San Diego, CA - Right now, community health centers in **San Diego, Riverside and Imperial counties** and across California are under two separate threats at the federal level. Unless Congress acts now, health centers could face a severe loss in funding, forcing health centers to stop services or close altogether.

"With only a week to go, Congress has had two years to act. Now is the time for Congress to do its job and fix the funding cliff for health centers. At this stage, Congress is operating on borrowed time, putting lives at risk," remarked Henry N. Tuttle, President and CEO of Health Center Partners of Southern California

First, Senators Graham and Cassidy have introduced new Affordable Care Act Repeal legislation that directly attacks California by threatening to take \$27 billion from California's health care system and redistribute it to other states. Should this bill pass, it will block grant the Medicaid program, which will ultimately mean less coverage, less benefits, and less access for millions of Californians.

Plain and simple: The Graham – Cassidy legislation punishes California for successfully implementing the Medicaid Program following the passage of the Affordable Care Act. If that happens, health centers – who rely heavily on Medicaid funds and treat 54 percent of the expansion population– will be severely impacted.

Second, unless Congress reauthorizes mandatory health center funding by the end of the month, health centers will see a 70 percent reduction in their grant funding (which is different from the possible reduction proposed in the Graham-Cassidy Bill), which will have a direct and immediate impact on the health of California communities as 6.2 million Californians rely on health centers for care – that's 1 in 7 Californians. **Health Center Partners of Southern California's 17 members serve 868,000 patients annually at 133 sites in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties.**

California will lose over \$300 million dollars if Congress does not extend mandatory funding for health centers. This loss will have major consequences, including staff layoffs, loss of services, and reduction in hours of operation. **Locally, San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties will lose over \$44 million dollars in federal investment funds in 2018.**

The Health Centers Program has always had bipartisan support, but this year's attacks on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) pose significant threats to the stability of the program.

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About Health Center Partners of Southern California:

Health Center Partners and its subsidiaries serve as the nexus for its members and partners to transform primary care through the power of innovation and collaboration. Our health policy, public affairs and advocacy efforts enhance the development of and recognition for our members who enrich the patient experience and improve the human condition through access to quality health care and related services for their diverse communities, with an emphasis on low-income and uninsured populations. www.hcpsocal.org [#FixtheCliff](https://twitter.com/FixtheCliff)