

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

January 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

We write to you today as strong champions of our nation's Community Health Centers. As you know, community health centers provide high-quality primary and preventive care to more than 27 million patients nationwide, including 4 million patients in California. We want to express our steadfast commitment to working with you on a bipartisan basis to extend critical funding that supports health centers on a long-term basis ahead of the January 19th spending deadline.

We are fully aware that Congress has many significant issues to address in just a matter of days. It is crucial that we prioritize the extension of funding for the Community Health Centers Program. If we don't act now, health centers will face a 70% reduction in federal support. According to estimates from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), that level of reduction would lead to the closure of roughly 2,800 health center locations, loss of more than 50,000 jobs, and most importantly, a loss of access to care for 9 million patients.

Our constituents in California, and across the country, deserve better.

It is our sincere hope that you will not forget community health centers as you work to find bipartisan agreement to funding the government before the expiration of the current CR. That is why we write you to urge you to continue to work to find bipartisan agreement on extending the Community Health Centers Program with offsets that we all can support. Please do all you can to ensure that Community Health Centers, and the millions of patients who find a medical home there, will be made whole with at least a 2-year reauthorization.

With so much uncertainty in our health care system, let's build on consensus and build on success. We appreciate your leadership on this issue, and stand ready to work with you and all of our colleagues to ensure health centers have the necessary resources to continue their important work now and for many years to come.

Sincerely,


SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress

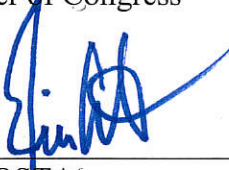

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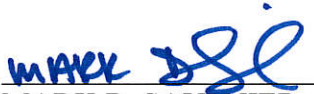

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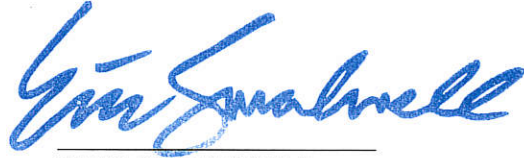

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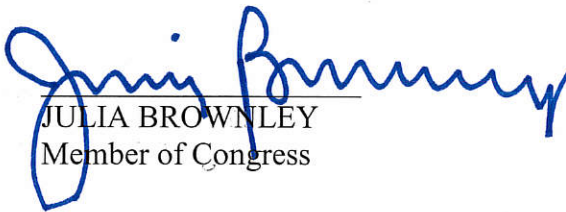
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JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Ken Calvert