

## Talking Points for Health Centers – Congressional Meetings, January 2017

**RED** = Insert local example, story or statistic.

Regardless of what is happening with the health insurance system, Americans need **a place to go for their care**. We want to work with you to **preserve and strengthen** that access at our health center and nationwide.

Health Centers have always provided **continuity amidst changes in the health care system**, serving as a safety net for the most vulnerable and the largest primary care network in the U.S. **DESCRIBE YOUR PATIENT POPULATION**

**Health Centers have bipartisan support** because of their **value** and their **impact**:

- **Access:** Health Centers are the health care home for more than 25 million patients **LOCAL NUMBERS**
- **Cost-Savings:** Health centers save, on average, \$2,371 (or 24 percent) per Medicaid patient when compared to other providers, according to a recent multistate study
- **Comprehensive Care:** Health centers bring together medical, oral health, mental health, substance abuse and other critical services under one roof
- **Economic Impact:** Health Centers employ more than 180,000 individuals, and generate over \$26 billion annually in economic impact to some of the nation's most distressed communities. **LOCAL NUMBERS**

**Health centers are on the front lines** of every major health crisis our country faces – providing access to care (and employment) to veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic and public health threats like the Zika virus.

### Funding:

Funding for the Health Centers program is the foundation of our national system of care – the largest primary care network in the U.S. Especially in times of change and transition, sustaining and boosting health center funding provides continuity and payoff for patients, communities and taxpayers. Yet Health Centers face a 70% funding cut this fall when the current bipartisan extension of the Health Centers Fund expires.

**We need Congress to act swiftly to avert this cliff and put Health Center funding on stable footing.**

Without Congressional Action on the funding cliff, the federal government estimates we would see a loss of access for 9 million patients, more than 50,000 jobs lost, and over 2,800 health centers that would be forced to close. Congress must act swiftly to sustain and grow health centers on a long term basis.

**AT OUR HEALTH CENTER, WE ESTIMATE THE IMPACT OF THE CLIFF TO BE: [USE [CLIFF CALCULATOR](#)]**

### Medicaid:

Nearly half of all patients at health centers are covered by Medicaid. Health centers and Medicaid work in conjunction to provide coverage and access for some of the most vulnerable Americans.

Health centers success in serving Medicaid beneficiaries and delivering value to the program is rooted in our unique payment system and benefit package, which is bundle of clearly defined services, reimbursed in a predictable, sustainable way that delivers cost-savings to taxpayers.

**AT OUR HEALTH CENTER, MEDICAID PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE: [USE [MEDICAID IMPACT STATEMENT GENERATOR](#)]**

We are concerned about potential changes to Medicaid that would put our patient's coverage at risk, without a clear, sustainable plan for making sure that that coverage is not lost.

**As Congress considers changes to Medicaid, we urge that Health Center patients' coverage is not put at risk, and that the FQHC Prospective Payment System is kept intact.**