

## Health Center Partners of Southern California Statement on White House Executive Order Regarding Health Centers the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program

***Community Health Centers are already part of the solution — they are not the problem.***

July 30, 2020

The mission of the nation's Community Health Centers is to ensure access to affordable, accessible, linguistically and culturally competent, high-quality preventive and primary health care for all people, currently more than 29 million, regardless of insurance coverage status or ability to pay – including pharmaceutical therapeutics – for income-eligible, registered patients.

Last Friday, the White House-issued executive orders targeted the federal 340B drug pricing program which among many things affords community-based non-profit Community Health Centers access to discounts on pharmaceutical therapeutics they otherwise would not be able to negotiate on their own. **By law, regulation, and mission, every penny Community Health Centers save through the 340B drug pricing program and its associated discounts is used either to make medication affordable for low-income patients, or to support other Center-based activities that expand access to care.** I cannot underscore enough how vitally important these discounts are to our Community Health Centers, particularly now that their physicians, nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, registered nurses and allied health professionals battle COVID-19 on the frontlines of hot spots across southern California and the nation.

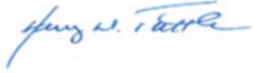
Specifically, one of the four of the president's [executive orders](#), signed July 24, requires the U.S. Health and Human Services secretary to condition Federally Qualified Health Centers' (FQHCs) future federal grants on making insulin products and anaphylactic reaction auto-injectors available to low-income, uninsured, or under-insured patients at the reduced price FQHCs pay for the products under the federal 340B drug pricing program.

To be clear – Community Health Centers already do this today and would of course support actions to make their patients' drug prices affordable. As safety-net providers committed to ensuring affordable access for all, ***Community Health Centers are already part of the solution — they are not attached in any way to some beltway-designed artificial problem to be solved 100 days from the election.***

**“The president’s argument that Community Health Centers are pocketing discounts is totally wrong,”** said Health Center Partners of Southern California President and Chief Executive Officer, Henry N. Tuttle. “Community Health Centers are not charging low-income patients astronomical prices for pharmaceuticals. In fact, they go out of their way to ensure they pass on 340B savings to

their patients while putting their lives on the line every day to protect vulnerable populations from the spread of COVID-19,” he added.

Community Health Centers fulfill an irreplaceable role in the nation’s health care delivery system and will remain committed to underserved communities and safety-net institutions – passing critical savings to patients and ensuring they have access to the best care available.



Henry N. Tuttle  
President and Chief Executive Officer

[Health Center Partners of Southern California](#), a family of companies, includes a [16-membership organization](#) of federally qualified health centers, Indian Health Services Organizations, both urban and sovereign, and Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, collectively serving 850,000+ patients each year, for 3.6 million patient visits each year, at 160 practice sites across San Diego, Riverside, Imperial counties, with the seventh largest provider group in the region. [2018/2019 Impact Report](#).