

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

February 24, 2010

**Continue the Health Center Expansion**  
*Sign the Health Center Request Letter TODAY!*

Dear Colleague:

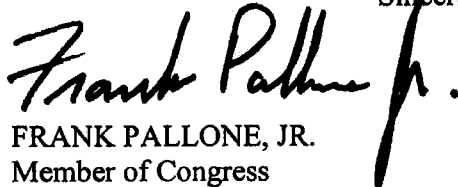
Please join us in signing the attached letter to Chairman Dave Obey and Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt encouraging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to provide \$2.56 billion for the Community Health Centers program in fiscal year 2011.


Today there are over 7,500 community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health center delivery sites located in all 50 states. Health centers operate in rural and urban communities that are designated as medically underserved because health care is either scarce or non-existent. Health centers serve as "health care homes" to over 20 million people each year, almost 8 million of whom have no health insurance. However, millions more Americans who have health insurance are still without a regular source of health care. With targeted increases in resources, health centers can serve 30 million Americans by 2015.

Community health centers provide affordable, effective quality care to the uninsured for approximately \$1.50 per patient per day. Yet in these difficult economic times, they cannot continue to meet the current demand for their services and care for the growing number of uninsured and underserved patients who seek their services without an increase in appropriations.

Please contact Tiffany Guarascio (Pallone) at 5-4671 or Theresa Vawter (Granger) at 5-5071 to sign the letter by March 10th.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
KAY GRANGER  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Dave Obey  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt,

We would like to express our deep appreciation for your work to invest in the infrastructure of America's health care safety net. Millions of Americans have lived longer and healthier lives due to your efforts. In order to continue that work with the goal of bringing care to all Americans in need, we respectfully request that you provide \$2.56 billion for the Health Centers program in the fiscal year (FY) 2011 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Recognizing the difficult budget situation this year, this request is well below the funding level authorized in the Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-355).

As you know, the Health Centers program is a community-run health care delivery system that is open to all regardless of their ability to pay. At a time when health care costs have dramatically increased across the country, health centers have kept their costs well under those of other health care providers. In addition, years of research have shown that health centers actually save the health system money, and that their patients have better outcomes and use hospital emergency rooms less than those who get their care in other settings. Simply put, the Health Centers program works and we wholeheartedly appreciate your continued efforts to expand this important program.

Thanks to the leadership of the Subcommittee, health centers are now the health care home for over 20 million Americans. Yet there continues to be overwhelming demand for community health centers and the primary care services they provide. In these difficult economic times, existing health centers have seen a surge in their patients, especially in the number of uninsured, and the pressing need for health care access in areas without a health center is even more acute. In order to truly serve those in need across the country, we must continue to support and expand existing health centers and develop new centers in underserved areas.

We know the subcommittee has a very difficult task ahead, but we strongly urge you to continue the health center expansion effort to communities in need by increasing federal funding for the Community Health Centers program to \$2.56 billion for FY2011. Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working with you this year to continue to expand this important program.

Sincerely,