October 27, 2017

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

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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

We write to express our serious concerns over the expiration of the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) program. We understand that community health centers across the country are already facing disruptions as a result of going over the so-called “funding cliff” at the end of September, and we urge you to work with Republicans and Democrats in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize this critical program for five years.

Community health centers across the United States have delivered affordable, accessible, and quality primary health care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, for more than 50 years. They serve more than 27 million individuals in almost 10,000 urban and rural communities by caring for the whole person, bringing together medical and behavioral health with pharmacy services. They also serve our nation’s veterans, providing care to over 330,000 veterans last year alone.

The CHCF accounts for 70% of community health centers’ federal grant funding and without knowing when this funding will be renewed, community health centers are already unfortunately considering or taking steps to reduce their services, jeopardizing the care of some of our nation’s most vulnerable citizens. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has estimated that without funding in 2018, approximately 2,800 health center sites would close, costing more than 50,000 jobs and endangering the health care of about 9 million patients.

The Community Health Center program has long enjoyed bipartisan support. We encourage you to work together to reach a bipartisan agreement on a five-year reauthorization that we all can endorse. Thank you for your efforts to ensure this vital program is funded so community health centers can continue to provide care to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

David Young
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

Rick Nolan  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Tim Walz  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko  
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
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Josh Gottheimer
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Scott Tipton
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Alma Adams, Ph.D.
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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David Scott
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Jimmy Panetta
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Ted Lieu  
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Val Demings  
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Ruben Kihuen  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Rick Allen  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Mick Gallagher
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Steve Knight
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
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Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
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Cheri Bustos
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Julia Brownley
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Scan Patrick Maloney
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Jared Huffman  
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Andy Barr  
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John Faso
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Adriano Espaillat
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Norma J. Torres
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Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress