

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Health Center Colleague:

The predictability of every new year is that it brings forth new challenges and opportunities. Today, we are ready to move forward knowing that what we have achieved in our work is vital to the nation's health and wellbeing.

As reflected in the nation's midterm elections, Americans rank health care a high priority. People are calling for, if not demanding, assurances of both health coverage and accessibility to essential health services.

We can be proud of our accomplishments. Across this land, community health centers are helping millions of people access a primary care medical home needed to sustain health and prevent disease. Through growing partnerships and collaboration we are generating the innovative models and delivery approaches that can improve population health and, effectively, help address costly community health problems. Whether reducing disparities — tackling substance use disorders — serving as responders in emergencies and disasters or putting focus on the social determinants of health, our health centers are taking the lead and delivering savings in health care.

Yet, despite progress and public support, we face formidable challenges. We continue to operate in a competitive and changing health environment. Budgetary battles will remain at high pitch as we strive, once again, to achieve longer-term, stable funding for the Health Center Program. We also anticipate a surge of activity at the state level impacting Medicaid and our patients. Moreover, the political landscape will change with many new members of Congress plus a generation of new players at the state level — many who are determined to reset the health agenda.

Our goal is to ensure that we continue on course. To this end, we are already at work building the framework of a coordinated federal-state plan of action and strategy for the coming year. All of America must see the strengths, the potential and value of our community based system of primary care — and that includes every lawmaker and leader in Washington, DC, and in our state capitals.

As we meet the new year, let us commit to strong involvement and collaboration in NACHC, our State/Regional Primary Care Associations and our Health Center Controlled Networks. And, let us raise our voices in advocacy on behalf of the patients and communities we serve.

The NACHC Board joins me in expressing thanks to you for your support and ongoing commitment to the Health Center Mission.

Sincerely,



James E. Luisi
Chair of the Board
National Association of Community Health Centers



James E. Luisi

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