March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We want to thank the subcommittee for its continued support and recognition of health centers as an important way to address the primary care access challenges facing the nation. As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding for the Health Center Program at the Health and Resources Services Administration.

This vital program supports Community Health Centers, which provide comprehensive health services—including, primary and preventive care, behavioral health, and dental care—to vulnerable and underserved communities. Today, thanks to the longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, the nation’s 1,400 Community Health Centers serve 28 million Americans, including eight million children and 355,000 veterans. In addition, these safety-net providers employ over 220,000 Americans in approximately 11,000 communities, ranging from rural areas to urban centers. Each year, Community Health Centers generate approximately $54 billion in economic activity and save the health care system an estimated $24 billion.

Community Health Centers are also on the frontline of addressing the nation’s changing health care needs. As the nation’s senior population grows, there will be a greater demand for primary care and case-management services to treat chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Community Health Centers have a proven record of using cost-effective, clinical strategies to deliver these services. In addition, Community Health Centers are on the forefront of responding to public health crises, including the opioid epidemic, flu outbreaks, and natural disasters. Community Health Centers are a cornerstone of the nation’s health care system and need reliable, sustained federal support to continue their work.

Thank you for your past bipartisan support of Community Health Centers. We urge you to continue that support into FY 2020 by providing robust funding for the Health Center Program in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Chris Poulahan  
Member of Congress

Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
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Abigail D. Spanberger  
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Jason Crow  
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Alex X. Mooney  
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Cheri Bustos  
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Ken Baca  
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Ruben Gallego  
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Donna Shalala  
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Anthony G. Brown  
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Steven Horsford  
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Kevin Brady
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Col. Paul Cook, Ret.
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
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Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins
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Susan Davis
Member of Congress
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Al Green
Member of Congress

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Val Demings
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
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Ron Kind  
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Darin LaHood  
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Veronica Escobar  
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Lizzie Fletcher  
Pramila Jayapal  
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Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Randall Martinez  
Member of Congress

Brad Schneider  
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
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Angie Craig  
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Jared Huffman  
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Adriano Espaillat  
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Michael F.Q. San Nicolas  
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Mike Kelly  
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Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress