For Immediate Release Contact

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**Community Health Centers Face Uncertain Future as Funding Cliff Looms**

***Bipartisan Legislative Solution Up to U.S. Senate***

Over the last fifty years, Community Health Centers have evolved into the largest and most successful primary healthcare system in the U.S. More than 1,300 health center organizations nationwide, operating sites in more than 9,000 communities. Governed by community boards, health centers deliver a range of primary and preventive care services – including medical, oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy and vision services. Health centers serve as integrated “health care homes” for more than 22 million patients, including nearly 7 million children and more than 268,000 veterans. Health centers employ more than 156,000 Americans, and generate both economic impact and overall cost savings of $24 billion the health care system.

But the future of [NAME OF YOUR HEALTH CENTER], along with other health centers nationwide, is uncertain due to the scheduled expiration of a major source of federal funding at the end of the current fiscal year: Oct. 1, 2015. Without action by Congress, all health centers could face a federal funding cut of up to 70 percent, which would force them to close sites, reduce staff or end services. A [recent report](http://www.nachc.com/client/PI_50th.pdf) by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) reveals that the funding cliff—which would slash federal support for health centers by up to 70 percent —would cause 7.4 million patients to lose access to care at their local health center and cost the jobs of nearly 57,000 clinicians and staff. [NAME OF YOUR HEALTH CENTER] would lose X amount of revenue, which could affect XX patients. [USE FUNDING CALCULATOR [AT THIS LINK](http://www.nachc.com/client/Primary%20Care%20Funding%20Cliff%20Estimator%20Public.xlsx)]

After a massive grassroots push by thousands of health center advocates from across the nation last month, House lawmakers, including [NAME OF YOUR US REPRESENTATIVES] voted by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 392-37 to pass H.R. 2, which stabilized funding for an additional two years for health centers, as well as for programs to train and recruit health center clinicians. Unfortunately, the Senate left for their scheduled two week recess without voting on H.R. 2, leaving final passage of the bill into law in limbo.

“We deeply appreciate the leadership of health center champions on both sides of the aisle for their support of this legislation which will protect healthcare for millions of Americans, and indeed the health of their constituents back home,” said [INCLUDE NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON BEING QUOTED]. “We are disappointed the Senate did not follow suit before they left for their two week recess and we urge them to quickly take up consideration of H.R. 2 when they return to ensure the continued stability and viability of [INCLUDE NAME OF HEALTH CENTER].”

[NAME OF YOUR HEALTH CENTERS] is part of a national primary care network that represents one of the most successful—and enduring—public-private partnerships in U.S. history. To this day, health centers remain small, not-for-profit businesses operated by patient-majority governing boards focused on meeting local healthcare needs. Every dollar invested in health centers generates a return on the investment, with more lives saved, reduced healthcare costs and more jobs in communities.

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