LETTER TO THE EDITOR TEMPLATE – SENATE PASSAGE OF H.R. 2

When we talk about healthcare, it’s important to remember that even though more Americans have health insurance coverage these days, millions of people still struggle to find a place to go for regular preventative care. A key part of the solution lies in our nation’s Community Health Centers, which have provided quality, affordable care for 50 years. But now health centers face an uncertain future unless Congress acts before the end of this fiscal year. Health centers face a federal funding reduction of up to 70 percent and without Congressional action to address this looming “primary care cliff,” 7.4 million health center patients will lose access to care, nearly 57,000 jobs at health centers will be lost, and estimates are that more than 2,000 health center sites would close.

 If Congress doesn’t act, our health center will be affected [DESCRIBE HOW MANY PATIENTS WOULD LOSE ACCESS TO CARE OR SERVICES THAT WILL BE CUT]

 Last month, we went to Washington and met with our Senators and Representatives about this critical issue. At that time, the House of Representatives was working on H.R. 2, a rare bipartisan piece of health care legislation, which also contains a two year continuation of funding for health centers ensure they do not go over the funding cliff. This bill recently passed the House with a resounding vote of 392-37.

By continuing vital investments in health centers for an additional two years, H.R. 2 would ensure access to care at health centers is not put at risk. The investments it contains will save the health care system money by keeping patients out of emergency rooms and by more effectively managing chronic conditions. The bill will also generate significant economic impact in our communities, where health centers are often one of the largest employers.

Unfortunately, the Senate left for their two week recess without taking up the bill and this vital access to care remains at risk unless the Senate acts swiftly when they return. We are asking that [NAME OF SENATORS THAT NEED TO VOTE] follow in the bipartisan footsteps of the House and vote to protect funding for health centers to ensure future generations have access to care when they need it.