

Sample Press Release

**[NAME OF STATE HERE] Health Advocates Ask Congress to Act on Health Center Funding**

A delegation of health advocates from [NAME OF HEALTH CENTER OR STATE] are pushing Congress for reliable, stable, long-term funding for health centers and other important health and workforce programs.

Staff and/or patients from [NAME OF HEALTH CENTER OR PCA] traveled to Washington to remind lawmakers that local Community Health Centers need long-term and stable support now more than ever.

The nationwide network of locally-run health centers serve 28 million people in 11,000 communities and provide affordable primary health care all over the United States. They are also responding to public health challenges, such as the opioid use epidemic, caring for veterans and responding to community needs after natural disasters.

[INSERT LOCAL QUOTE HERE]

Health centers have compiled a record of success in cost-savings and illness prevention.

1. They save the health care system $24 billion annually. A 2016 study of Medicaid in 13 states showed health center patients had 24 percent lower total costs per patient than those treated elsewhere.
2. They serve patients who are medically underserved and live in isolated and frontier communities where there are few if any providers. Nearly half of health centers (44 percent) are located in rural communities and can mean the difference between life and death for Americans where the nearest doctor or hospital can be 50 miles or more away.
3. They are fighting the opioid use epidemic. Health centers provided medication assisted treatments to 65,000 patients in 2017 and are on course to triple urgently needed behavioral and mental health services.
4. They are good for the economy. Health centers generate $54.6 billion in economic activity in low-income and underserved communities and employ over 220,000 people, including many of our nation’s veterans.

Unless Congress acts now, a large portion of health center funding expires in September. Several bipartisan bills have been introduced in the House and Senate that provide long-term and stable funding for health centers as well as for critical workforce building programs.