October 27, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C.  20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C.  20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

We write to express our serious concerns over the expiration of the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) program. We understand that community health centers across the country are already facing disruptions as a result of going over the so-called “funding cliff” at the end of September, and we urge you to work with Republicans and Democrats in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize this critical program for five years.

Community health centers across the United States have delivered affordable, accessible, and quality primary health care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, for more than 50 years. They serve more than 27 million individuals in almost 10,000 urban and rural communities by caring for the whole person, bringing together medical and behavioral health with pharmacy services. They also serve our nation’s veterans, providing care to over 330,000 veterans last year alone.

The CHCF accounts for 70% of community health centers’ federal grant funding and without knowing when this funding will be renewed, community health centers are already unfortunately considering or taking steps to reduce their services, jeopardizing the care of some of our nation’s most vulnerable citizens. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has estimated that without funding in 2018, approximately 2,800 health center sites would close, costing more than 50,000 jobs and endangering the health care of about 9 million patients.

The Community Health Center program has long enjoyed bipartisan support. We encourage you to work together to reach a bipartisan agreement on a five-year reauthorization that we all can endorse. Thank you for your efforts to ensure this vital program is funded so community health centers can continue to provide care to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

David Young
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress
Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress
Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

Mick Gallagher  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Steve Knight  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
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Cheri Bustos  
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Julia Brownley  
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Scan Patrick Maloney  
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Dwight Evans  
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David Joyce  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Susan Davis  
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Pete Aguilar  
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Jim Himes  
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Bill Foster  
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Robin L. Kelly  
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
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Beto O’Rourke  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
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Jared Huffman  
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Seth Moulton  
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Ed Perlmutter  
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Michael E. Capuano  
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Greg Gianforte  
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Mark Pocan  
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Andy Barr  
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Ami Bera
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John Larson
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Mark Takano
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Raúl Grijalva
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Marc Veasey
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Carol Shea-Porter
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Juan Vargas
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Bradley S. Schneider
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Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Daniel Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress
John Faso
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress