Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We want to thank the Subcommittee for your continued support and recognition of Health Centers as a longstanding bipartisan solution to the primary care access problems facing this country. During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee continue to recognize Health Centers as providers of high quality, cost-effective primary care and that you work to ensure the continuation of the innovative, high-value health center model of care within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2018.

Since the first health centers opened their doors more than fifty years ago, health centers have provided primary care, dental, behavioral, pharmacy, vision and a variety of complementary services to America’s most vulnerable patients and communities. Today, thanks to longstanding bipartisan support, well over 1,400 health center organizations serve nearly 10,000 urban and rural communities nationwide. Health Centers are the health care home for over 25 million patients, including 7.6 million children and nearly 300,000 veterans. Health Centers employ more than 180,000 Americans, and generate billions of dollars both in economic impact and overall cost-savings for the health care system.

Health Centers have continually proven to be a worthwhile investment by delivering high quality, affordable health care, and the demand for health center services has grown in recent years. Combined with the investments made on a bipartisan basis through the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization of 2015 (MACRA), annual appropriations for the Health Centers Program have been critical to the operations of health centers nationwide as they meet that demand. With MACRA’s Health Centers Fund extension set to expire this fall, we urge you to work with your colleagues on other committees of jurisdiction to keep funding for Health Centers whole in FY18. Without access to primary care, many people, including the chronically ill, delay seeking health care until they are seriously ill, leading to higher costs and worse health.
outcomes. The Health Center model is designed to address this and other health challenges by fostering innovation and high-value care at the community level.

As Congress works to improve access to care, reduce health care expenditures, and promote patient-centered solutions to our health care challenges, we urge the Subcommittee to continue to support Health Centers, which have a proven track record of success. Thank you for your continued support of the vital role Health Centers play in preserving and expanding access to care in the communities they serve. We ask that as you continue to face difficult choices on budget priorities, that you support this proven and cost-effective model of care.

Sincerely,

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Stephen Knight
Member of Congress

Sean Maloney
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Rod Blum  
Member of Congress

George Holding  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Chris Collins  
Member of Congress

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress

Diane Black  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress
Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Steve Russell  
Member of Congress

Mark Walker  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Member of Congress

Tom O’Halleran  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Daley K. Davis
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Bill Keating
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Mia Love
Member of Congress
Paul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Nanette Barragan
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
M.C.

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Member of Congress

Joe Loeffl
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Edward麻将
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Ann Kuster
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Brad Schneider  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

John Larson  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress

Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Marcha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

Thomas Suozzi  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress

Nydia N. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress
Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress

Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Peter Roskam  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress

David McKinley  
Member of Congress

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

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress
Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
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Doris Matsui
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Timothy Walz
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Don Young
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Linda Sánchez
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Blake Farenthold
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Tim Murphy
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Walter Jones
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Emanuel Cleaver
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Albio Sires
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Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress