The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, 
Health and Human Services, Education 
and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, 
Health and Human Services, Education 
and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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) 2017 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 FY2017.

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 1,300 health center organizations serve more than 9,000 urban and rural communities nationwide. Health centers are the health care home for more than 24 million patients, including more than 7 million children and nearly 300,000 veterans. Health centers employ more than 175,000 Americans, and generate billions of dollars both in economic impact and overall cost-savings 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), the annual appropriation is critical to the operations of health centers nationwide as they meet that demand. 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,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Corinne Brown
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Jeff Denham
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Dave Trott
Member of Congress
André Carson  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Cynthia M. Lummis  
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress
John Carney  
Member of Congress

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress
Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

 Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins, CPA  
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

Judy Rice  
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress
Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Mark Takai
Member of Congress

Scott Rigell
Member of Congress

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Mark Walker  
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress
Stacey E. Flaskett
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Cresent Hardy
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress

Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress
Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Candice S. Miller  
Member of Congress

Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Mimi Walters
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

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

Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Mia Love
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress
Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Brad Ashford
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress