

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to express our support for additional emergency funding for community health centers in the next COVID-19 relief package. Community health centers are vital to our response to the coronavirus pandemic and need appropriate funding to continue their front-line health care work.

Community health centers provide affordable care to more than 29 million patients, including 385,000 veterans and 8.7 million children nationwide. These centers play a critical role in responding to the pandemic, offering coronavirus testing, primary care, dental care, behavioral health care, and other services to our nation's most vulnerable patients. This care helps keep individuals out of emergency rooms, where beds are currently in particularly high need. It also helps manage chronic conditions that may exacerbate the symptoms of COVID-19.

Over the next six months, community health centers will see 34 million fewer appointments as Americans cancel primary and preventive care appointments or delay non-essential care. Health centers are anticipating \$7.6 billion in lost revenue and 105,000 lost jobs. Over 2,000 centers have already had to close their doors and many more remain concerned about how long they will be able to stay open.

We appreciate the additional \$2 billion in emergency funding provided to community health centers in recent COVID-19 response and relief packages, including \$600 million dedicated to testing. However, despite this funding, health centers are still worried about how to keep their doors open to serve their patients. These valuable providers will continue to lose more revenue as the pandemic continues. Additional funding is critical for these centers to continue providing quality, affordable health care and front-line response efforts.

We look forward to working with you to reach a bipartisan agreement to enact legislation and ensure community health centers can continue to provide high quality and affordable care to those in need.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

/s/ Dick Durbin  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters  
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown  
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

/s/ Martha McSally  
Martha McSally  
United States Senator

/s/ Kevin Cramer  
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis  
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner  
Cory Gardner  
United States Senator

/s/ John Hoeven  
John Hoeven  
United States Senator

/s/ Steve Daines  
Steve Daines  
United States Senator

/s/ Deb Fischer  
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema  
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons  
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris  
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet  
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Tester  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen  
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator