



November 14, 2017

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris,

We represent the leadership of five consortia of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the Bay Area, representing close to **900,000 patients** and **216 locations**. With the expiration of the \$3.6 billion of ACA mandated Community Health Centers Funds on October 1, every health center in the country now plans for a 70% cut at the beginning of our next budget period. If this funding cliff is left unaddressed, health centers will be closing sites and laying off staff, a loss of access for patients who count on us for life-saving care.

The stakes are too high. Failure to act will result in close to **70,000 of our patients losing access** to health care, the possible closure of 13 or more health center sites, and the loss of 430 or more health center staff positions. Nationally, the impact is even more devastating; 2,800 health center sites may be forced to close resulting in a projected 51,000 layoffs of clinicians and other personnel, and more than 9 million patients losing access to necessary health care services.

Thanks to longstanding bipartisan investments made by Congress, health centers now serve more than 25 million patients in nearly 10,000 communities nationwide. In California, health centers serve 6.2 million people – that’s 1 in 7 Californians. Failing to support this funding will result in tremendous suffering in our local communities.

OUR ASK: On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the House passed, with support from both parties, legislation that included a 2-year extension to funding for the Health Centers Program as well as key programs that support the health center workforce – the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Centers Program. It is now up to the Senate to take immediate action. We are asking you, on behalf of our patients and staff, to sustain or increase the current **\$3.6 billion in annual mandatory funding** with a 5-year extension. We respectfully ask that you make a public statement about your commitment to immediate action by posting on social media, releasing a public statement, or publishing an Opinion Editorial.

On behalf of our communities in the greater Bay Area, we ask that Congress pass an immediate, long-term fix to health center funding. Patients in your community are counting on you for the stability of their care.

Sincerely,

Ralph Silber, Executive Director, Alameda Health Consortium

Suzie Shupe, CEO, Redwood Community Health Consortium

Alvaro Fuentes, Executive Director, Community Clinic Consortium of Contra Costa and Solano County

Sabra Matovsky, President & CEO, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium

Dolores Alvarado, CEO, Community Health Partnership



Our five Bay Area consortia represent the following Federally Qualified Health Centers:

Alexander Health Care  
Alliance Medical Center  
Asian Americans for Community Involvement  
Asian Health Services  
Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center  
Axis Community Health  
Coastal Health Alliance  
Communicare Health Centers  
Community Medical Center  
Gardner Family Health Network  
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley  
La Clínica  
LifeLong Medical Care  
Marin City Health and Wellness  
Marin Community Clinic  
MayView Community Health Center  
Mission Neighborhood Health Center  
Native American Health Center  
North East Medical Services  
OLE Health  
Petaluma Health Center  
Ravenswood Family Health Center  
Ritter Center  
RotaCare Bay Area, Inc.  
Santa Rosa Community Health Center  
School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County  
Sonoma Valley Community Health Center  
South of Market Health Center  
St. Joseph Health  
Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center  
Tri-City Health Center  
West County Health Center  
West Oakland Health Council  
Winters Health Center