



November 14, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

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 3rd 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