



ADVOCATES FOR  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH

September 15, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chairman  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions (HELP) Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions (HELP) Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Senator Marshall:

Advocates for Community Health writes today to express our strong support for the Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act and to applaud you for your bold vision for community health center funding, which truly recognizes the need communities are experiencing. As health centers face unprecedented budgetary challenges and strains to their workforce, this proposal could not come at a more important time.

Funding for the Health Center Program helps to ensure access to a comprehensive medical home for all patients, especially those in underserved communities. Health centers work tirelessly to meet the complex and evolving needs of their patients, serving all who seek care, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. With the right investment, health centers can continue to build on their more than 50-year legacy in fulfilling their mission as hyper-local health care hubs, treating the full range of complex patient needs and helping entire communities live healthier and more productive lives.

We are thrilled the Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act provides community health centers and other vital programs with the funding they need to fulfill this mission. This legislation makes bold investments in the Community Health Center Fund at \$5.8 billion per year for three years, the National Health Service Corps at \$950 million per year for three years, and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program at \$300 million per year for five years. These funding levels reflect the need for, and commitment to, the sustainable investment necessary for health centers to continue to provide high quality care to their patients, addressing the true and urgent needs of these important programs. Further, this legislation will provide critical support for the primary care workforce desperately needed to provide that care.

We are grateful for the steadfast bipartisan support that Congress has provided to community health centers through the years and are pleased that this proposal continues that tradition. As this bill is considered by the HELP Committee and moves through the legislative process, we are eager to see champions on both sides of the aisle work together on a path forward for this badly needed investment. Over 30 million people in the United States count on health centers for their care, and now health centers are counting on Congress to come through for them.

Again, thank you. For more information or to discuss this further, please contact me at [apearskelly@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org](mailto:apearskelly@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org).

Sincerely,

Amanda Pears Kelly  
Chief Executive Officer