



ADVOCATES FOR
COMMUNITY
HEALTH

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Advocates for Community Health Commends Congress on Passage of Continuing Resolution, Urges Passage of Bipartisan, Comprehensive Funding for Community Health Centers

WASHINGTON—On behalf of our members and the 31 million patients served by community health centers each year, Advocates for Community Health (ACH) commends the House and the Senate for passing a continuing resolution that includes a stopgap measure to fund federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) through January 19.

As the nation's largest primary care network, FQHCs serve historically marginalized communities and provide comprehensive, culturally competent, integrated care to over 31 million people. They are a healthcare home for anyone who walks through their doors, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. FQHCs are economic engines, save the healthcare system billions annually, and improve health outcomes in the underserved communities they serve.

While this continuing resolution ensures funding through the next six weeks, it does not address the urgent need for a long-term, sustainable investment in the Community Health Center Program. At this time of unprecedented financial challenges for health centers, it is critical that the Community Health Center Fund be reauthorized at the highest possible level. In [a letter](#) delivered to Congressional leadership on October 30, 2023, over 500 national and local health care organizations representing 49 states and all five territories called on lawmakers to increase funding for FQHCs and supporting programs. Our message was clear: health centers are lifesaving, hyper-local healthcare hubs that impact every corner of our country and the patients they serve need Congress to act now.

We are deeply grateful for the bipartisan work done thus far in both the House and Senate to find a path forward for an increase in funding for health centers. As Congress considers final funding levels for the health care programs that need to be reauthorized in early 2024, we urge leaders to fund the CHC Fund at the levels included in the Senate HELP Committee's Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act, S. 2840. This investment of \$5.8 billion per year for three years has the greatest potential to sufficiently support patient care, shore up struggling health centers, and set our country on a path to improved health outcomes for all communities.

Community health centers have a decades-long history of strong bipartisan support, and we implore Congress to stand up for them and the millions of patients who count on their services. This cycle of financial uncertainty is detrimental to health centers' ability to respond to the growing and complex needs of their patient populations. ACH looks forward to continuing to work with Congressional leaders and federal stakeholders to ensure health centers have the resources they need now, and for years to come.

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About Advocates for Community Health

Advocates for Community Health is a membership organization for federally qualified health centers that strives to advance the delivery of health care to underserved populations and to achieve health equity for patients and communities in need. We are committed to working collaboratively to advance well-defined and forward-thinking policies at the national level. By leveraging the wisdom, agility, and innovation of our members, ACH brings bold leadership to drive change in the American healthcare system. To learn more about membership and partnership opportunities, visit www.advocatesforcommunityhealth.org or follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).