



Calling Congressional Offices | November 2024 *Call Your Legislator | CHC Fund Reauthorization*

Helpful Tips

- To contact your Senator or Representative's office, you can call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your Senator or Representative's office, or find Representatives' direct office lines here and Senators' direct office lines here.
- Your call should be quick, direct, and convey urgency. Please see below for a sample phone script to use when calling your representative and advocating for their support for increased health center funding.

Phone Script:

My name is _____ and I'm from [town/city]. I am both a constituent of [Senator] / [Congressman/woman] and the [position] of [name of health center/PCA] in [state].

I'm calling to urge [Senator] / [Congressman/woman] to support reauthorizing the Community Health Center fund at the highest possible level - specifically, I ask that they push for the \$5.8 billion included in the Senate's Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act.

The Community Health Center Fund expires on December 31st, and we are relying on your support for sustained, long-term funding in order to continue providing care and services to the people of [Name town/county/region].

Community health centers are experiencing unprecedented financial challenges and workforce shortages while providing care for more than 32 million patients in underserved communities nationwide. Securing increased and long-term funding is essential for health centers' continued ability to transform their communities by providing the gold standard of primary care.

Investing in health centers has been a long-standing bipartisan issue and I appreciate all that [Senator] / [Congressman/woman] has done to support health centers in the past, and look to their continued leadership to ensure the fund's reauthorization provides health centers with the robust funding and long-term security we need.

If You'd Prefer Not to Use a Script:



For those who prefer to not use a script, we suggest using the following format and have included example talking points.

- **Your name and where you're from**
 - "I'm a constituent in [name of town]"
 - "I work at a health center in [town/county/state]"
- **Health center professional credentials**
 - "I'm the CEO/COO/Director of Operations, etc. of [name of health center]"
 - "I'm the Director of Government Affairs/Policy/Clinical Integration etc. at the [name of PCA]"
- **Issue & Importance**
 - Support the highest possible levels of funding for the Community Health Center Fund Reauthorization
 - Health centers are already facing financial and operational challenges
 - Health centers rely on federal funding to continue providing high-quality primary care
 - Health centers serve patients regardless of ability to pay, high under/uninsured patient population
 - Community impact and public health benefits health centers provide
- **Expected Action from Representative**
 - Support, urge, push for the level of funding in the Senate's Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act - \$5.8 billion a year for the Community Health Center Trust Fund Reauthorization.
- **Thank You & Persuasive Reiteration**
 - Bipartisan issue
 - Constituents rely on care provided by health centers in the state (or your specific center)
 - Invite member to visit

Additional Tips for Going Off Script

- Share a detailed example of specific innovative programs or community outreach, preventative health screenings, etc. in your health center, or health centers in your state
- Invite your member on to visit your health center when they are back in the district
- Provide the specific number of constituents/patients that receive care from your health center or health centers in the state



- Share the percent of your budget that is funded through the Community Health Center Fund, and what services/programs/sites would have to be cut without securing increased funding needed to meet the demands of higher costs and increasing numbers of patients
- Elaborate on other fiscal challenges - Medicaid unwinding, expiration of COVID funds, erosion of 340B, uncompensated care, costs associated with recruiting and retaining workforce

Email Script:

Dear [Senator, Representative, or Staff Member],

As a constituent and [title] of [health center], I am writing to ask that you support reauthorizing the Community Health Center fund at the highest possible level – specifically, I ask that you push for the \$5.8 billion per year for three years included in the Senate’s Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act.

Earlier this fall, [Name of Health Center] joined over [550 stakeholder organizations in all 50 states in sending a letter to House and Senate leaders](#), urging Congress to reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund at \$5.8 billion a year for three years, a meaningful increase over current levels.

I am deeply grateful for the bipartisan work being done in the House and the Senate to increase funding levels for health centers. It is critical that the Community Health Center Fund be reauthorized at the highest possible level, given the difficult financial circumstances many FQHCs are experiencing. An 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, and we urge you to do all you can to make this increase a reality.

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) provide comprehensive, quality care to over 32 million Americans each year, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, and are the best investment you can make in health care. The [Congressional Budget Office](#) found that care provided at community health centers lowers federal spending for the Medicaid and Medicare populations they serve and lowers spending in emergency departments, inpatient hospital settings, and other outpatient services. Health centers are also economic engines for under-resourced communities. For every dollar of federal funding invested in community health centers, \$11 is generated in total economic activity through increased spending on related health service expenses, food services, transportation, and more.

Thank you for your consideration and all you do for community health centers in [state].

Sincerely,