



ADVOCATES FOR
COMMUNITY
HEALTH

August 5, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

Advocates for Community Health (ACH) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization focused on advocacy initiatives to affect positive change for community health centers (CHCs), the patients they serve, and the entire nation's health care system. Our 45 health center members serve over three million patients across 22 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Our mission is to advance bold, actionable policy that strengthens health centers' ability to deliver comprehensive, integrated primary care and cutting-edge innovation. We write today to urge you to take steps to empower community health centers to expand their reach, deepen their impact, and improve the lives of the patients and families they serve every day.

Provide Robust Funding for the Community Health Center Fund

Now is the time to invest in high-quality primary and preventative care for all Americans. Community health centers are model stewards of federal funds; the more you invest in health centers, the more federal funds you save. [Research](#) shows that for every \$1 invested in primary care like the care provided at health centers, \$13 is saved in downstream costs through the prevention of expensive complications and emergency room visits. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [has reported that](#) funding community health centers leads to more cost-effective patient care than the care that patients would otherwise receive and could save the federal government billions of dollars. A meaningful increase would allow health centers to increase health care access, recruit and retain the workforce they need, expand preventive care, and drive innovation.

Supporting health centers is a smart, cost-effective way to meet our nation's growing health needs while protecting taxpayer dollars. As we approach the September 30 expiration of the Community Health Center Fund's authorization, we urge lawmakers to increase the Fund to \$7.87 billion annually for at least three years.

Reinvest in the Primary Care Workforce

National Health Service Corps

As a nation, we are facing severe healthcare workforce shortages, particularly in underserved and rural communities. Investing in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) doesn't just fill gaps—it builds long-term capacity through scholarships and loan repayment programs to healthcare professionals who serve where they are needed most. Today, [over 20,000 NHSC clinicians](#) are delivering primary, dental, and mental health care at 7,800 community health centers, reaching 18 million patients. The NHSC program helps health centers recruit and retain a skilled, mission-driven workforce, from front office staff to physicians and behavioral health providers.

ACH urges Congress to invest at least \$950 million annually in this program to ensure that rural and underserved communities can access high quality health care while reducing long-term healthcare costs and encouraging a more resilient health care infrastructure overall.

Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program

The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program is backed by years of bipartisan support and proven success. In the [2023-2024 Academic Year](#) THCGME funded 81 teaching health centers which supported 1,100 resident full-time equivalent slots. Participating residents conduct over one million patient visits each year, often in communities facing significant provider shortages. After completing residencies, many THCGME graduates [remain in the communities where they train](#). This program strengthens local health systems and creates long-term access to community-based care.

Investing at least \$300 million annually in THCGME will build a stronger pipeline of providers committed to advancing care continuity in underserved and rural areas.

Protect the 340B Program

Community health centers rely on the 340B program to stretch limited federal resources to provide affordable, high-quality care to underserved communities across the country, especially in rural areas. By enabling discounted prescription drug purchases, the program allows health centers to serve more patients with complex needs and reinvest savings into critical services like chronic disease management and maternal health. Rural CHCs are able to increase access to low-cost medications for their patients through direct mailing programs. Though CHCs represent just 5% of 340B purchases, the program has an outsized impact on access to care in rural and underserved areas. Erosion of the program by state policies, drug manufacturers, and pharmacy benefit managers jeopardizes health centers' ability to care for underserved communities.

We urge Congress to pass comprehensive reform of the program that increases transparency and accountability for participating entities and ensures program stability and longevity for safety net providers.

Modernize Care Delivery and Improve Health Outcomes

Given their role in primary care delivery and the complex, high-need patients they serve, community health centers are central to bending the healthcare cost curve and improving care delivery. We welcome the opportunity to partner with lawmakers to advance patient-centered solutions that address

mental health, nutrition, and chronic disease more effectively. We support permanent extensions of policies that allow for expanded access to telehealth services and incentivize capacity building for value-based care at health centers.

Advocates for Community Health is deeply grateful for your leadership and continued support of the Health Center Program, which plays a vital role in providing comprehensive and affordable health care to Americans. ACH remains committed to partnering with you to advance health care for the communities we serve.

For more information or to discuss these issues further, please contact me at apeekskelly@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org and/or contact Stephanie Krenrich, Senior Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, at skrenrich@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Kelly', with a stylized, flowing script.

Amanda Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
Advocates for Community Health