



ADVOCATES FOR
COMMUNITY
HEALTH



November 4, 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 of the House
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:

Our organizations – Advocates for Community Health (ACH), the American Association of Teaching Health Centers (AATHC), and the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) – write today to express our strong support for three foundational programs to our country’s workforce and healthcare safety net: the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF), the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.

Collectively, these programs build and keep clinical workforce where it’s most needed, particularly in rural areas, ensuring that nearly 34 million patients in underserved areas receive high-quality, comprehensive care annually. Funding for these programs became far less secure on October 1, 2025, as the new fiscal year began without prospects for near term or longer-term funding solutions. **We urge you to work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that all three programs are fully funded as soon as possible and that steps are taken to enact multi-year reauthorization legislation as well.** Expedient resolution of this issue is particularly necessary because the Teaching Health Centers recruiting process for the next class of residents has begun, and Congress needs to send a signal so that medical students will continue to seek residency slots at these programs.

Investing in the people who deliver primary care is the best way to meet rising health needs and safeguard public resources. CHCF, the mandatory funding stream for community health centers, is a smart, cost-effective use of federal funds; the more you invest in health centers, the more federal funds you save. According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), greater investment in primary care at community health centers saves money for the Medicaid and Medicare programs and for the health system overall, helping patients better manage chronic diseases and avoid more costly care settings like the emergency department. Ensuring access to primary care helps prevent and treat costly chronic diseases and also promotes whole person care.

Because health centers are only as strong as their clinicians and staff, the NHSC and THCGME programs are essential to the health of our highest-need communities. The United States is facing severe healthcare workforce shortages, particularly in underserved and rural communities. Investing in the NHSC and the THCGME doesn't just fill gaps—it builds long-term capacity. The NHSC provides scholarships and loan repayment programs to over [20,000](#) clinicians who serve where they are needed most. These health care providers deliver primary, dental, and mental health care at 7,800 community health centers, reaching 18 million patients. In the [2023-2024 Academic Year](#), THCGME funded 81 teaching health centers, which supported 1,100 resident full-time equivalent slots. Residents conduct over one million patient visits each year, frequently in communities facing significant provider shortages, which strengthens local health systems and creates long-term access to community-based care.

Strategic investment in these programs will safeguard access to affordable, accountable health care and prevent more costly care at hospitals and other high-cost settings, ultimately saving money for the health care system as a whole.

We are grateful for your leadership and continued support of the CHCF, NHSC, and THCGME programs, which all play vital and complementary roles in ensuring Americans have access to comprehensive and affordable primary care. We are committed to partnering with you to advance health care for the communities we serve.

For additional information or to discuss these issues further, please contact Stephanie Krenrich, Senior Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs at Advocates for Community Health at skrenrich@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org, Cristine Serrano, Executive Director of the American Association of Teaching Health Centers at cserrano@aathc.org, and/or Amanda Pears Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved at apearskelly@clinicians.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Krenrich
Senior Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs
Advocates for Community Health

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