Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Labor, Health Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We want to thank the subcommittee for its continued support and recognition of health centers as an important way to address the primary care access challenges facing the nation. As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding for the Health Center Program at the Health and Resources Services Administration.

This vital program supports Community Health Centers, which provide comprehensive health services—including, primary and preventive care, behavioral health, dental care, pharmacy, and vision care—to vulnerable and underserved communities. Today, thanks to the longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, the nation's 1,400 Community Health Centers serve over 29 million Americans, including 8.7 million children and 385,000 veterans. In addition, these safety-net providers employ over 236,000 Americans in more than 12,000 communities, ranging from rural areas to urban centers. Each year, Community Health Centers generate approximately $54 billion in economic activity and save the health care system an estimated $24 billion.

Community Health Centers have a proven record of using cost-effective, clinical strategies to deliver high-quality, affordable health care. On a bipartisan basis and for nearly ten years, Congress has supported health centers through the annual appropriation for the Health Center program combined with investments in the Community Health Center Fund. With the Health Center Fund set to expire at the end of May, we urge you to work with your colleagues on the other committees of jurisdiction to continue to prioritize health centers' funding in FY21. Community Health Centers are a cornerstone of the nation's health care system and need reliable, sustained federal support to continue their work.

Thank you for your past bipartisan support of Community Health Centers. We urge you to continue that support into FY 2021 by providing robust funding for the Health Center Program in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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Support Community Health Centers, Appropriations FY21
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