

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your tireless efforts to ensure our nation's health care providers have the resources they need to effectively prepare for and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As both chambers continue to work on a fourth package to address this public health crisis, we write to urge you to prioritize both long-term reauthorization and additional infrastructure funding for community health centers (CHCs) in any forthcoming legislation.

The recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act extended funding for CHCs, the National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs (THCGME) at current funding levels through November 30, 2020 and included \$1.3 billion in supplemental funding for health centers for Fiscal Year 2020. However, CHCs operate on extremely thin margins that have already been stretched due to Coronavirus response efforts, resulting in a major reduction in patient visits and loss of revenue. As such, the pandemic has had a dramatic economic impact on our health centers, many of which have been forced to implement safeguarding measures to ensure the financial stability of their organization for the long-term. This includes some having made difficult personnel decisions, including a temporary reduction in staffing during this global health crisis.

Given the health center's vital role in protecting vulnerable populations, both in rural and urban areas, more needs to be done to ensure their long-term financial viability. Ensuring long-term, robust health center funding is essential to health centers' ability to recruit and hire providers, expand capacity and plan for dramatic increases in demand for services, particularly as this crisis evolves. We urge you to consider legislation reauthorizing CHCs for five years to provide long-term, sustainable funding.

It is also critical that future legislation takes into account the urgent infrastructure needs of CHCs. We have been encouraged by the House adoption of \$10 billion in program and capital improvement funds for CHCs as part of H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act. Now more than ever, infrastructure funding is essential to both support ongoing projects to address unmet primary care needs that have been suspended due to COVID-19, as well as support the implementation of various new infrastructure needs to provide ongoing and

necessary care during the pandemic. This includes rapidly adopted and expanded remote telemedicine and video medicine care for patients to access the care they need while mitigating the spread of the Coronavirus.

We look forward to continuing to work towards our shared commitment to protecting and expanding health care for American families, ensuring the long-term stability needed for CHCs to deal with this crisis, and supporting CHCs to meet current patient care needs as well as address any future surges in patient need related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Also signed by:

Brian Fitzpatrick

Jahana Hayes

Anthony G. Brown

Joe Neguse

Adriano Espaillat

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Chellie Pingree

Denny Heck

Tom O'Halleran

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Bobby L. Rush

John P. Sarbanes

Tony Cárdenas

Sheila Jackson Lee

Joseph P. Kennedy, III

Adam B. Schiff

G. K. Butterfield

Jerrold Nadler

Doris Matsui

Mike Doyle

Alan Lowenthal

Kathy Castor

Peter Welch

David E. Price

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Betty McCollum

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