

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

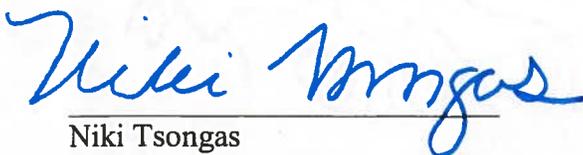
We write to express our serious concerns over the expiration of the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) program. We understand that community health centers across the country are already facing disruptions as a result of going over the so-called "funding cliff" at the end of September, and we urge you to work with Republicans and Democrats in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize this critical program for five years.

Community health centers across the United States have delivered affordable, accessible, and quality primary health care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, for more than 50 years. They serve more than 27 million individuals in almost 10,000 urban and rural communities by caring for the whole person, bringing together medical and behavioral health with pharmacy services. They also serve our nation's veterans, providing care to over 330,000 veterans last year alone.

The CHCF accounts for 70% of community health centers' federal grant funding and without knowing when this funding will be renewed, community health centers are already unfortunately considering or taking steps to reduce their services, jeopardizing the care of some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has estimated that without funding in 2018, approximately 2,800 health center sites would close, costing more than 50,000 jobs and endangering the health care of about 9 million patients.

The Community Health Center program has long enjoyed bipartisan support. We encourage you to work together to reach a bipartisan agreement on a five-year reauthorization that we all can endorse. Thank you for your efforts to ensure this vital program is funded so community health centers can continue to provide care to those who need it most.

Sincerely,



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



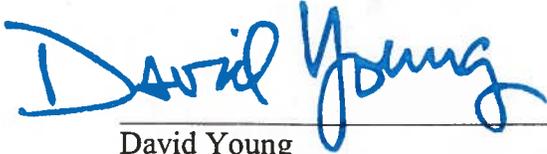
Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
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David Young
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
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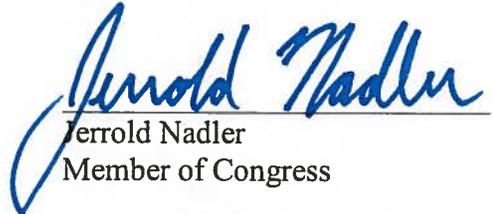
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



David E. Price
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Rick Larsen
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Peter A. DeFazio
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André Carson
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Danny K. Davis
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Chellie Pingree
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Marcy Kaptur
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Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



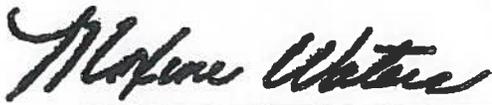
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



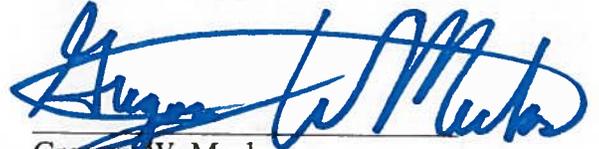
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



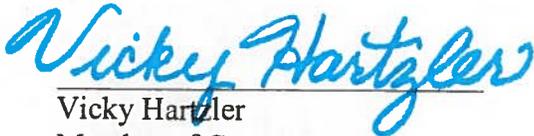
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



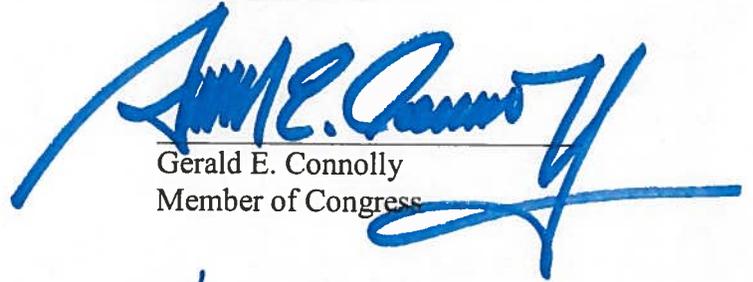
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



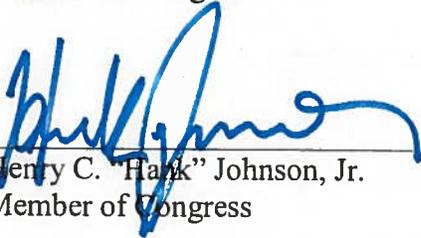
Gregory W. Meeks
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Vicky Hartzler
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Karen Bass
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David N. Cicilline
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Gwen Moore
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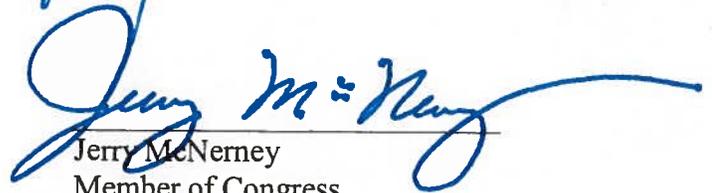
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Jerry McNerney
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Blake Farenthold
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Daniel W. Lipinski
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José E. Serrano
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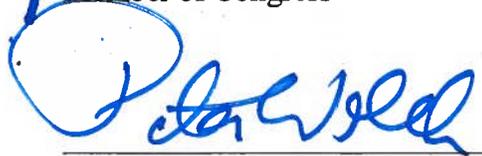
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Steve Cohen
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Peter Welch
Member of Congress



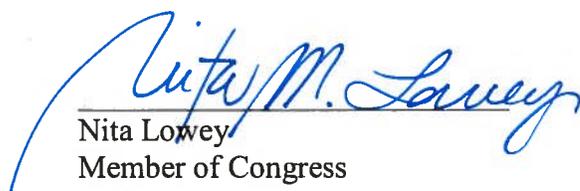
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



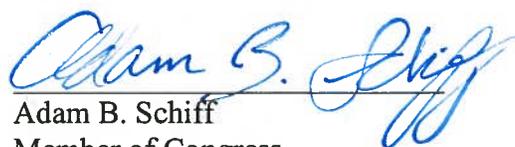
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



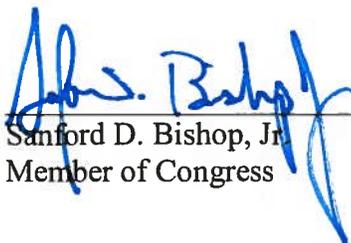
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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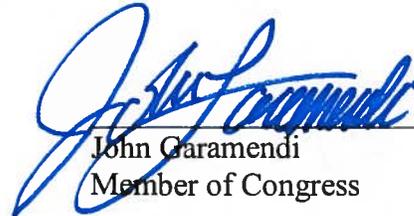
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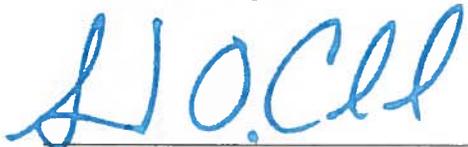

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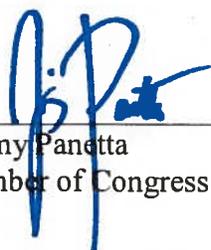

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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Jimmy Panetta
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Val Demings
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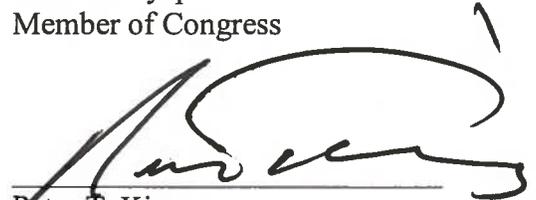
Ruben Kihuen
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Pramila Jayapal
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Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



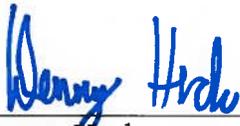
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Jacky Rosen
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Colleen Hanabusa
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Denny Heck
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Rick Allen
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Charlie Crist
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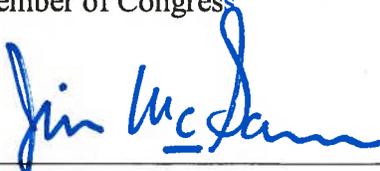
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



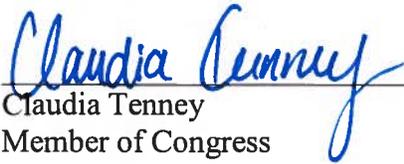
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

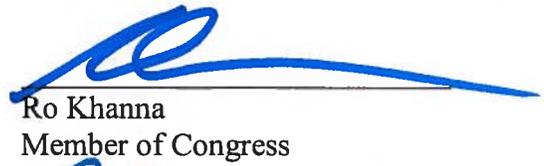


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

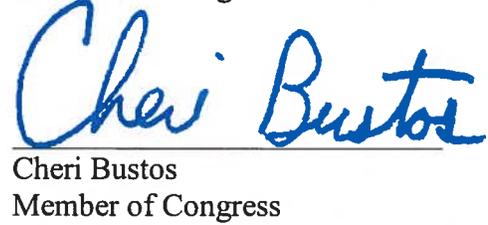


Suzanne Bonamici
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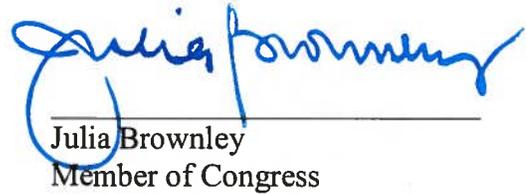

Claudia Tenney
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Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

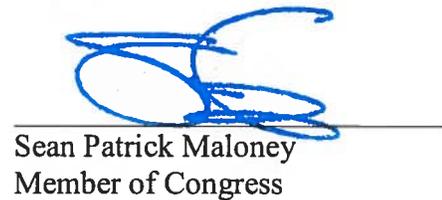

Mike Gallagher
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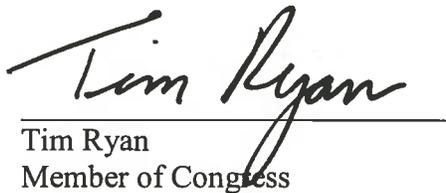

Sean Patrick Maloney
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Dwight Evans
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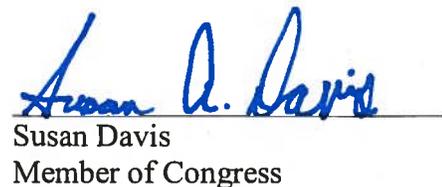

Earl Blumenauer
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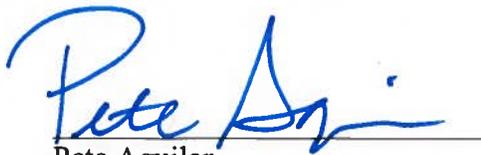

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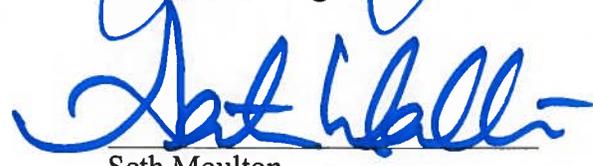

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Nanette Diaz Barragan
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Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

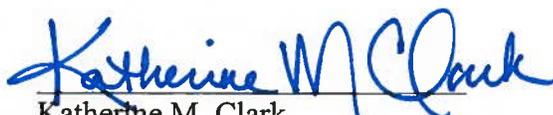

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Michael E. Capuano
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Katherine M. Clark
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Andy Barr
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Ami Bera
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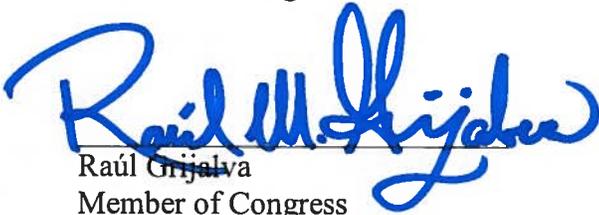
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Marc Veasey
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Derek Kilmer
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Carol Shea-Porter
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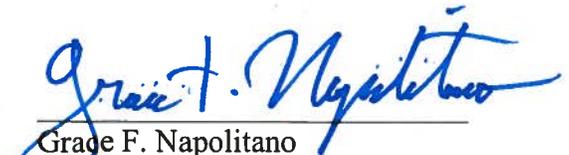
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Daniel Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
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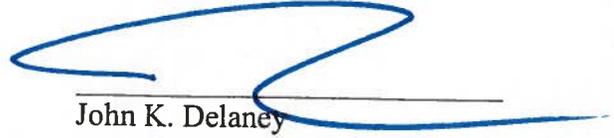
John Faso
Member of Congress



John Katko
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Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



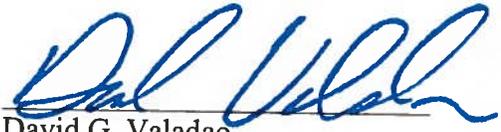
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



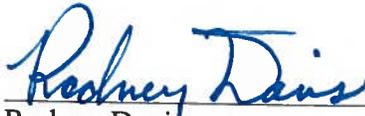
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
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David G. Valadao
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Rodney Davis
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