

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to express our support for additional emergency funding for community health centers in the next COVID-19 relief package. Community health centers are vital to our response to the coronavirus pandemic and need appropriate funding to continue their front-line health care work.

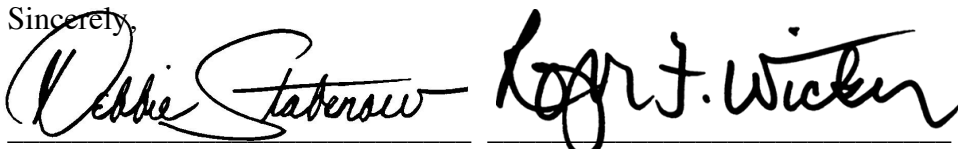
Community health centers provide affordable care to more than 29 million patients, including 385,000 veterans and 8.7 million children nationwide. These centers play a critical role in responding to the pandemic, offering coronavirus testing, primary care, dental care, behavioral health care, and other services to our nation's most vulnerable patients. This care helps keep individuals out of emergency rooms, where beds are currently in particularly high need. It also helps manage chronic conditions that may exacerbate the symptoms of COVID-19.

Over the next six months, community health centers will see 34 million fewer appointments as Americans cancel primary and preventive care appointments or delay non-essential care. Health centers are anticipating \$7.6 billion in lost revenue and 105,000 lost jobs. Over 2,000 centers have already had to close their doors and many more remain concerned about how long they will be able to stay open.

We appreciate the additional \$2 billion in emergency funding provided to community health centers in recent COVID-19 response and relief packages, including \$600 million dedicated to testing. However, despite this funding, health centers are still worried about how to keep their doors open to serve their patients. These valuable providers will continue to lose more revenue as the pandemic continues. Additional funding is critical for these centers to continue providing quality, affordable health care and front-line response efforts.

We look forward to working with you to reach a bipartisan agreement to enact legislation and ensure community health centers can continue to provide high quality and affordable care to those in need.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez
Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Dick Durbin
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Martha McSally
Martha McSally
United States Senator

/s/ Kevin Cramer
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis
Thom Tillis
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner
Cory Gardner
United States Senator

/s/ John Hoeven
John Hoeven
United States Senator

/s/ Steve Daines
Steve Daines
United States Senator

/s/ Deb Fischer
Deb Fischer
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Tester
Jon Tester
United States Senator