

April 3, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro,

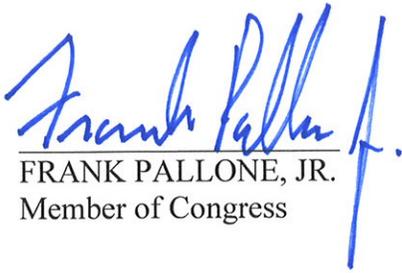
We want to thank the Subcommittee for your continued support and recognition of Health Centers as a bipartisan solution to the primary care access problem facing this country. As you take on the difficult task of preparing for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Appropriations process, we respectfully request the Subcommittee **continue to support the vital role Health Centers play in preserving and expanding access to high-quality cost-effective care in the communities they serve in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2015.**

Health Centers provide primary care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and a variety of support services to America's most vulnerable populations. Currently, more than 1,200 locally-controlled Health Centers operate in 9,000 urban and rural underserved communities. Since 2002, Health Centers have expanded health care access from 11 million patients to 22 million patients in underserved rural and urban communities nationwide. Without meaningful access to primary care, many people delay seeking health care until they are seriously or chronically ill, often requiring admission to a hospital or much costlier care at an emergency room. Health Centers have continually proven to be a crucial investment by delivering high quality, affordable health care while generating savings to the entire health system. In fact, Health Centers save over \$1,200 per patient annually in total health care costs by coordinating and managing care, producing \$24 billion in annual health system savings.

Despite these investments, many communities in need still lack a health center and 62 million Americans do not have access to primary care. Even in communities with a health center, demand often far exceeds supply and significant unmet need remains due to limited resources. As Congress works to improve access to primary care while at the same time reducing health care expenditures, we urge the Subcommittee to continue to support Health Centers so they can continue to meet overwhelming demand for primary care in this country.

Thank you for your continued support of the vital role Health Centers play in providing and expanding access to care in the communities they serve. We ask that as you continue to face difficult choices on budget priorities, you support this proven and cost-effective model of care.

Sincerely,


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Member of Congress


GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

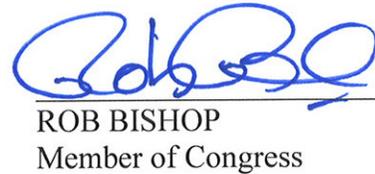

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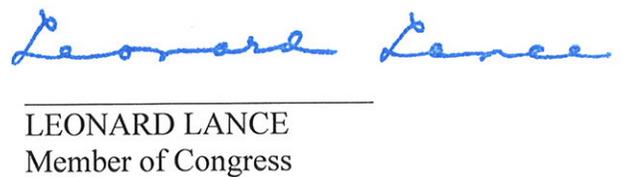

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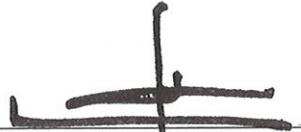
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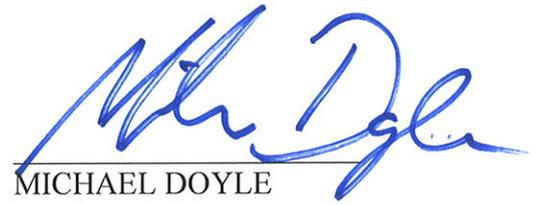
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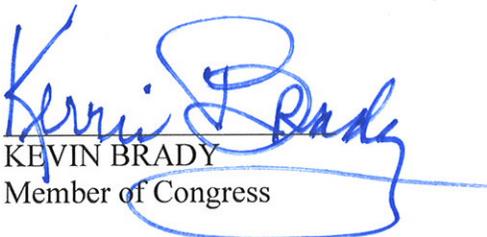
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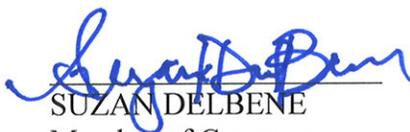
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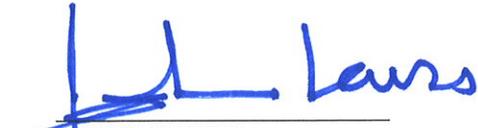
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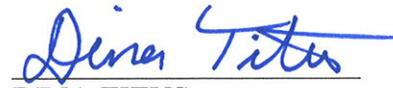


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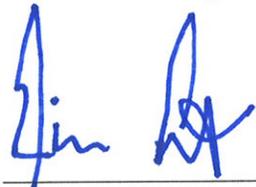
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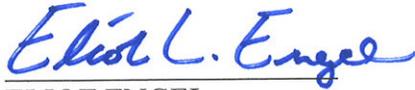
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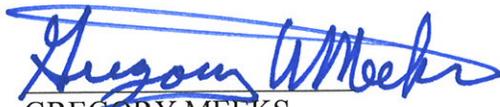
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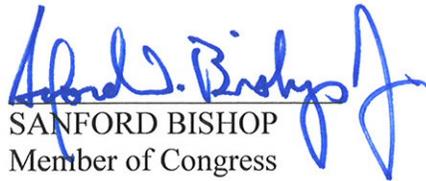
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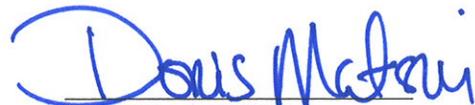
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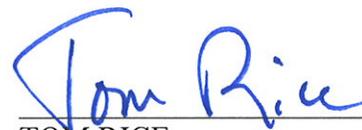

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