

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write to express our concern over funding for community health centers, which expired on September 30, 2017. We strongly urge you to reauthorize this funding immediately.

Community health centers serve a vital function, providing affordable health care to our nation's most vulnerable citizens. They provide quality medical, dental, vision and behavioral health care to more than 27 million patients, including 330,000 of our nation's veterans and 8 million children, at over 10,000 sites nationwide. By offering preventative care, treating chronic conditions, and working to fight the opioid epidemic, community health centers are not only greatly improving the health and well-being of those they serve, they are also saving significant taxpayer dollars.

Without extension of the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF), community health centers will lose seventy percent of their funding. This will result in an estimated 2,800 site closures, the loss of 50,000 jobs, and approximately 9 million Americans losing access to their health care. Moreover, community health centers operate as small businesses and require a level of predictability to operate and respond to the needs of their communities. Since the expiration of the CHCF, community health centers have not been able to adequately plan for everything from staffing needs to securing loans for capital projects. In addition, the expiration of the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education program threatens the ability of health centers to meet their workforce needs.

For more than fifty years, community health centers have experienced strong bipartisan support. In fact, twenty bipartisan senators cosponsor legislation which reauthorizes funding not only for community health centers but also for the National Health Service Corps.

We look forward to working with you to reach a bipartisan agreement to fund the community health center program and enable our community health centers to continue providing high quality and affordable care to those in need.

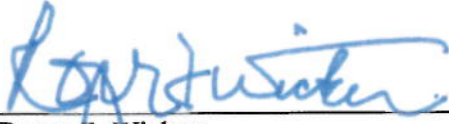
Sincere Regards,




Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



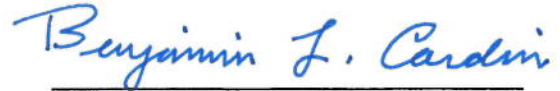
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



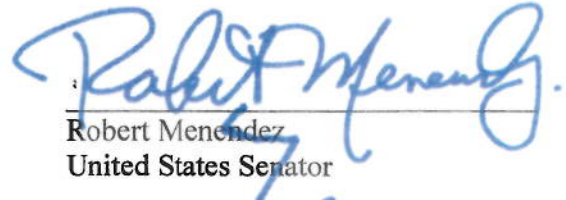
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



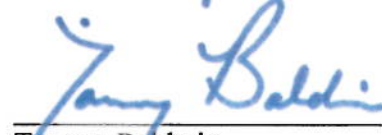
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator




Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



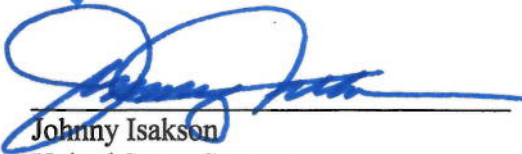
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



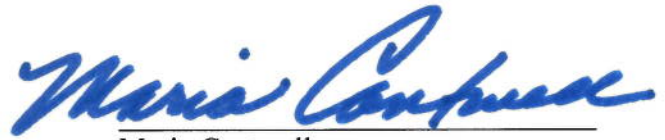
Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



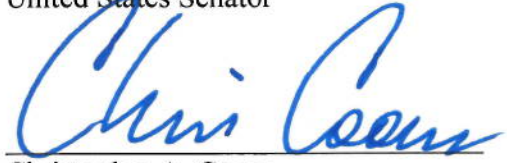
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator




Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United State Senator



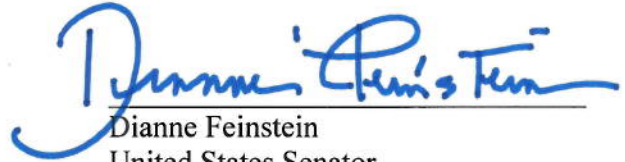
James E. Risch  
United States Senator




Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Thad Cochran  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



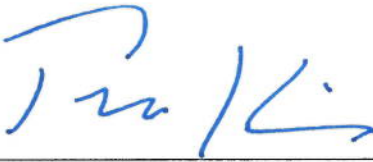
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



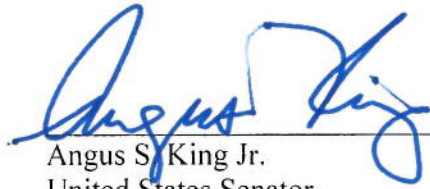
John Hoeven  
United States Senator



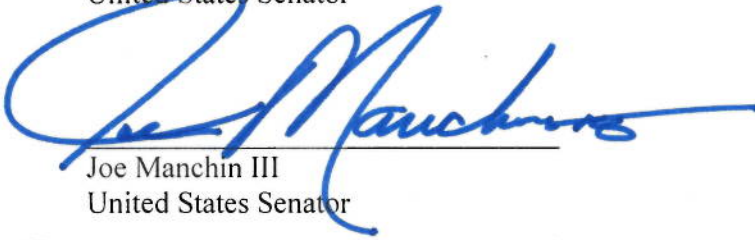
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



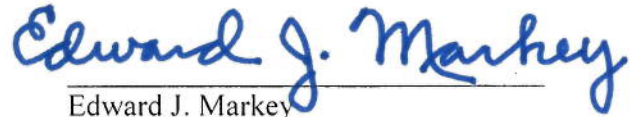
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



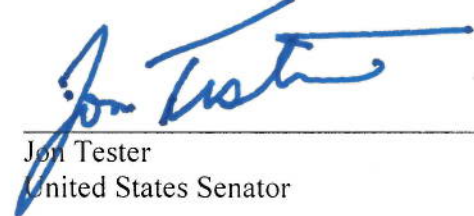
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



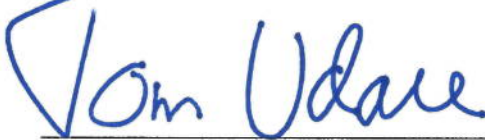
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



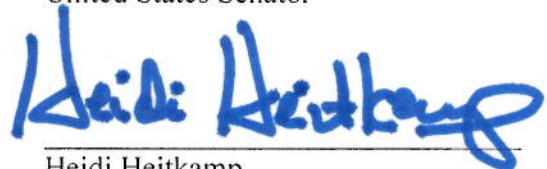
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



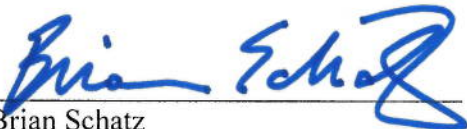
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



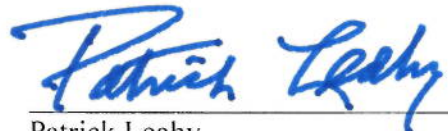
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



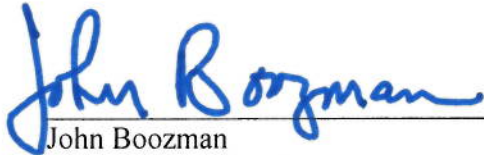
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



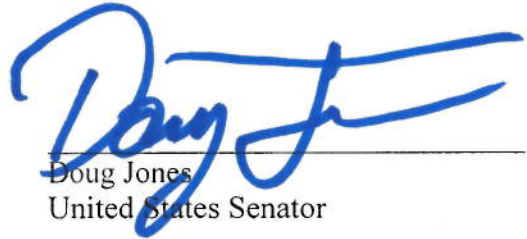
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Doug Jones  
United States Senator



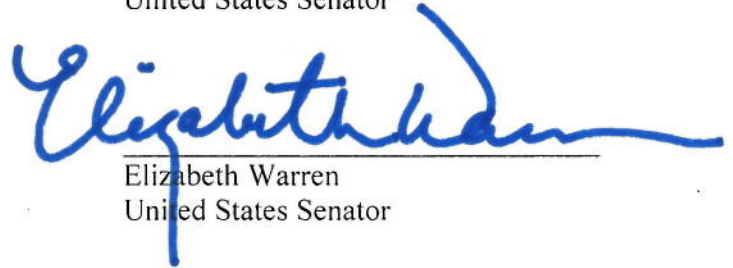
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



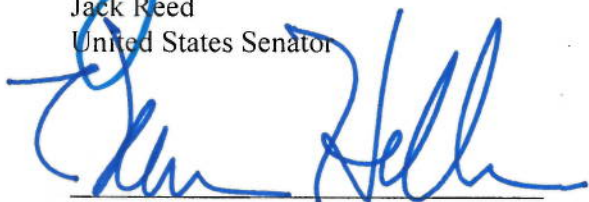
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



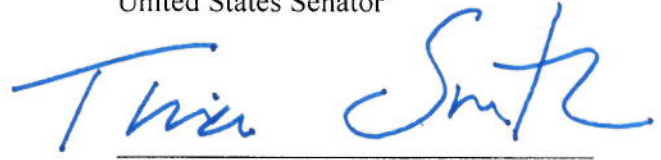
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



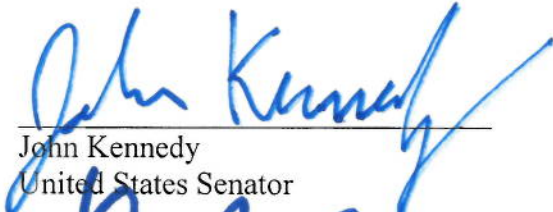
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Dean Heller  
United States Senator



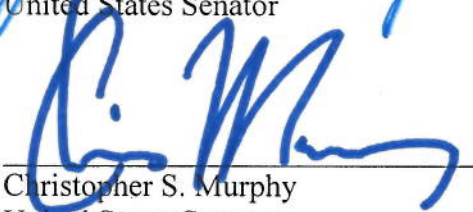
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Jerry Moran

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United States Senator