

## **Join Us – Raise Awareness to Extend Community Health Center Funding**

Without action from Congress, every health center in America stands to lose more than 70% of their federal grant funding. Members of Congress can join us in raising awareness for this issue and take action immediately to extend critical funding for health centers. This collective effort centers on the need for a long-term extension with increases over time to allow for growth. Every Member has a role to play in helping us get across the finish line.

**Below are five ways that individual Members of Congress can publicly demonstrate their support for extending funding for health centers.**

**1. Write an Op-Ed or Blog Post ([TEMPLATE](#))**

Members can always utilize the media to express their views on an issue – especially for top priorities like health center funding renewal. Whether it's an opinion piece published in their hometown newspaper, a column for a more "insider" DC publication like The Hill, Roll Call, or Politico, or a guest post on a blog, there are always opportunities for Members to speak out through news outlets.

**2. Send a Letter to Leadership ([TEMPLATE](#))**

With a full to-do list, Congressional leaders in the House and Senate will only make health center funding renewal a priority if they are hearing from their Members about it. Members can tell their Congressional leaders – in writing – that extending Community Health Center funding is a priority for them. In *addition* to individual letters, Members can also amplify their voices by organizing letters from their state's delegation, or from caucus groups they are a member of (i.e. Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Public Health Caucus, etc).

**3. Give a Speech on the House or Senate Floor ([TEMPLATE](#))**

Every day of a Congressional session, Members have the opportunity to speak on the House or Senate floor about a priority topic. In the House, there are "one-minutes" (short speeches, usually in the morning) and "special orders" (larger blocks of time where multiple members discuss an issue, usually in the evening). Senators can ask consent to speak on any topic at any time.

**4. Post Support on Social Media ([TEMPLATE](#))**

One of the simplest ways a Member can express support for health center funding renewal is through social media – primarily Twitter or Facebook. We encourage Members to use the hashtag #ValueCHCs.

***For each option listed above, make sure you ask any Member who takes that action to:***

- *State unequivocally their support for taking action immediately to provide a long-term extension of funding with increases over time to allow for growth.*
- *Publicize the action on their website and share it through social media.*