

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran,

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, 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, and 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 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.

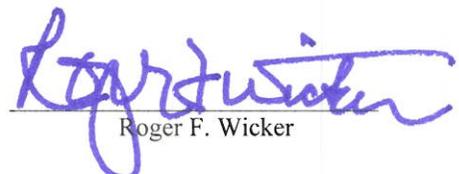
Despite these investments, many communities in need still lack a health center, and 62 million Americans do not have access to primary care. Even in communities with a health center, demand often far exceeds supply, and significant unmet need remains due to limited resources. As Congress works to improve access to primary care and to reduce 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.

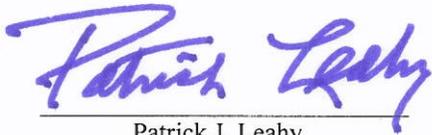
Sincerely,



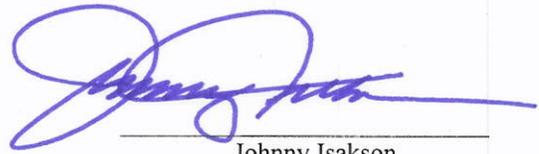
Debbie Stabenow



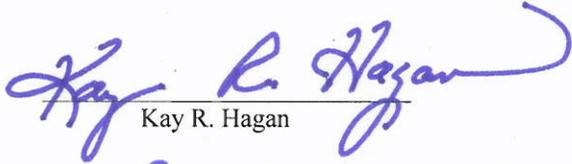
Roger F. Wicker



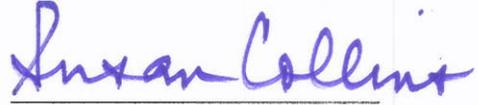
Patrick J. Leahy



Johnny Isakson



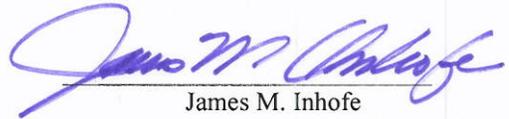
Kay R. Hagan



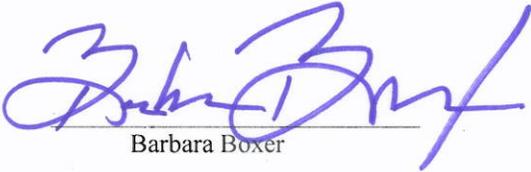
Susan M. Collins



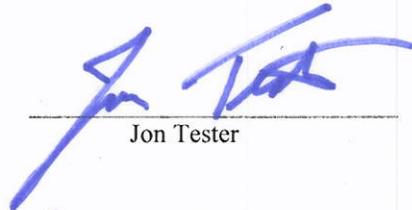
Carl Levin



James M. Inhofe



Barbara Boxer



Jon Tester



Robert Menendez



John D. Rockefeller IV



Charles E. Schumer



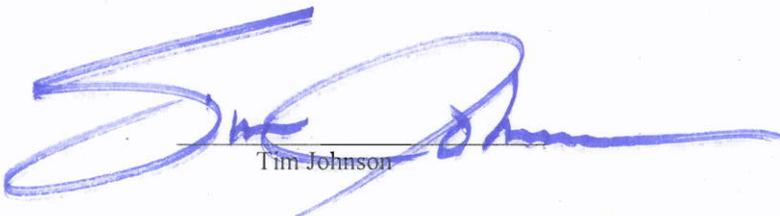
Mazie K. Hirono



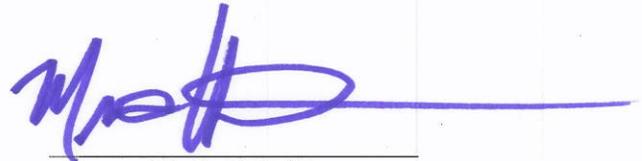
Sheldon Whitehouse



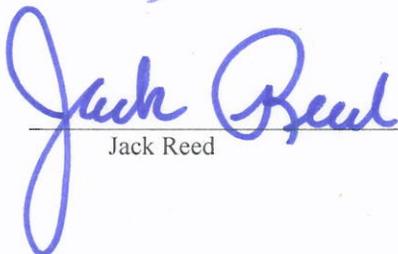
Richard J. Durbin



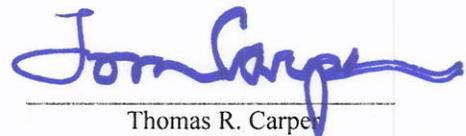
Tim Johnson



Martin Heinrich



Jack Reed



Thomas R. Carper

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz

Joe Donnelly

Joe Donnelly

Joe Manchin III

Joe Manchin III

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell

Mike Crapo

Mike Crapo

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet

Benjamin L. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar

James E. Risch

James E. Risch

Christopher Murphy

Christopher Murphy

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal

Christopher A. Coons

Christopher A. Coons

Mark E. Udall

Mark E. Udall

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders

Mark R Warner

Mark R. Warner

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden

Cory Booker

Cory Booker

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine

Heidi Heitkamp

Heidi Heitkamp

Kelly A. Ayotte

Kelly Ayotte

Marco Rubio

Marco Rubio

Jeff Merkley

Jeff Merkley

John Cornyn

John Cornyn

Al Franken

Al Franken

Saxby Chambliss

Saxby Chambliss

Michael B. Enzi

Michael Enzi

Edward J. Markey

Edward Markey

Richard Burr

Richard Burr