

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



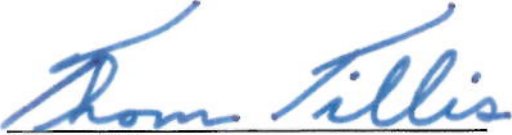
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



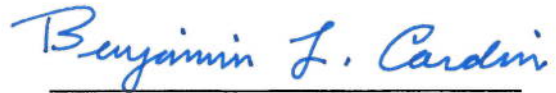
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



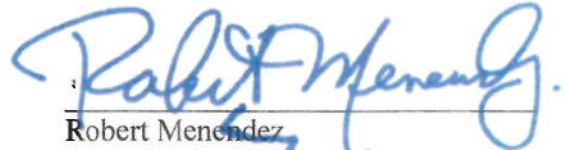
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



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



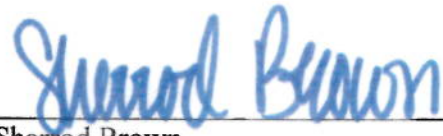
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



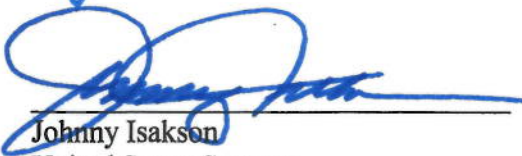
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



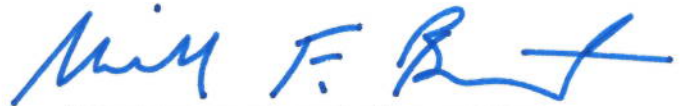
Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



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



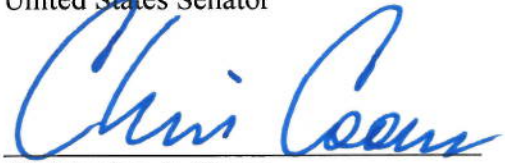
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United State Senator



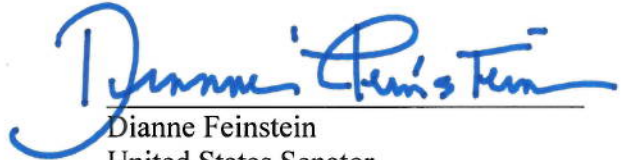
James E. Risch
United States Senator



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



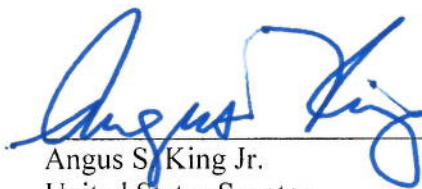
John Hoeven
United States Senator



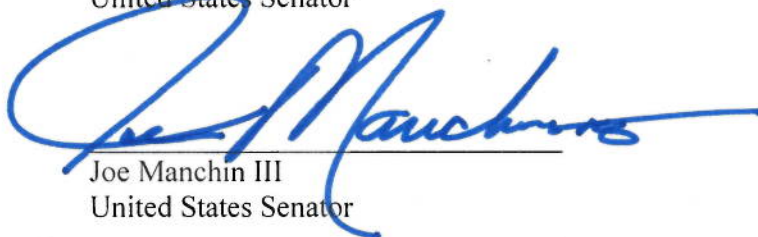
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



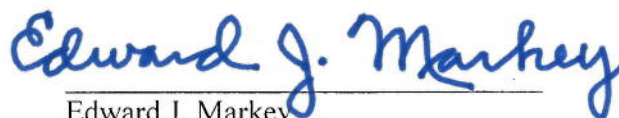
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator



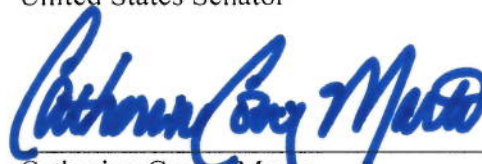
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



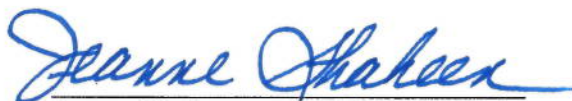
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



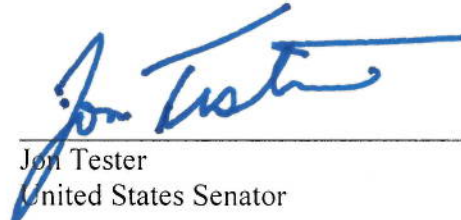
Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



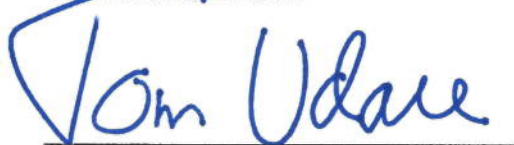
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



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



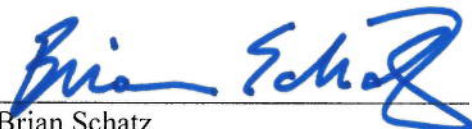
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



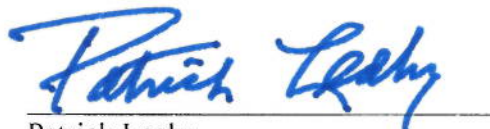
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



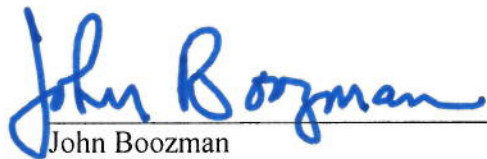
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



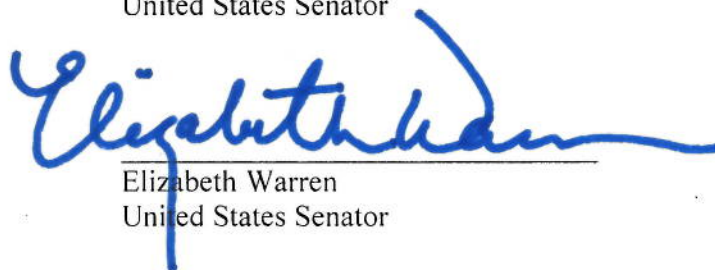
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



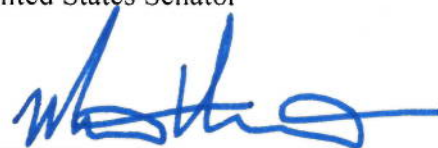
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



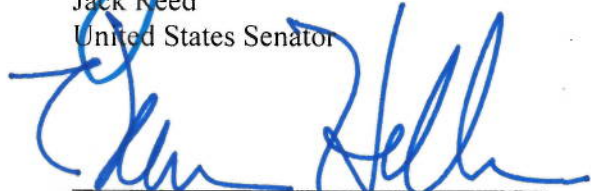
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



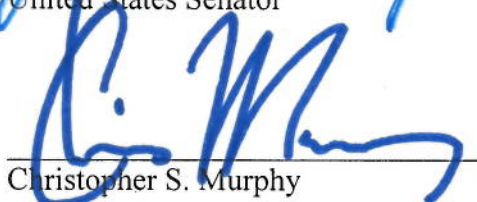
Tina Smith
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran
United States Senator