September 18, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

As we approach the expiration of the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF) on December 31, 2024, the over 550 undersigned signatories - including national health care organizations, state and regional primary care associations, community health centers, and other stakeholders - write to urge you to reauthorize the CHCF with a robust investment as part of any end-of-year funding package.

We respectfully request that the CHCF be reauthorized at no less than $5.8 billion per year for at least 3 years. Sustained, increased funding will allow community health centers to continue serving their patients, while simultaneously contending with a series of unprecedented financial challenges. We are grateful that members on both sides of the aisle supported a short-term funding increase for the CHCF earlier this year, but a long-term reauthorization has not been enacted since 2019. Without stable funding, CHCs struggle to serve the increasing need in their communities, employ a skilled healthcare workforce, and support critically needed projects and service expansions.

The Health Center Program is the nation's largest primary care network, serving:

- Over 31 million patients in 2023, an increase of 2.7 million people since 2020, of whom 90% have incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level,
- 1 in 8 of our nation's children, and
- 9.7 million patients in rural areas.[1]

Unfortunately, federal funding is not keeping up with the increased need communities are facing as the nation contends with overlapping mental health, substance abuse, and maternal health crises and local emergencies like hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes. Health centers are masterful at stretching scarce resources to the absolute limit, but they are at a point where they cannot stretch their resources any further to meet the needs of their communities. As mandatory and discretionary funding for community health centers have remained relatively flat, health centers are also reeling from the Medicaid redetermination process, historic inflation, an ongoing health care workforce shortage, and the continued erosion of 340B program savings. In addition,

[1] https://bphc.hrsa.gov/about-health-center-program/impact-health-center-program

median operating margins for the nation's community health centers stand at only 3.5 percent, making increased federal funding even more vital.[2]

Funding for the CHCF has a demonstrated return on investment. According to a Congressional Budget Office report issued in February 2024, care provided at community health centers lowers federal spending for Medicaid and Medicare through decreased utilization of services in emergency departments, inpatient hospital settings, and for costly outpatient services.[3] In 2021, community health centers were estimated to have saved a total of $25.3 billion for the Medicaid and Medicare programs.[4]

Community health centers also serve as economic engines for under-resourced neighborhoods. A study by Capital Link has shown that for every dollar of federal funding invested in community health centers, $11 is generated in total economic activity through increased spending on related health service expenses, food services, transportation, construction, and more.[5] This is especially important in rural communities where health centers are often the largest employer and serve as a key economic engine in otherwise under-resourced communities.

Not only do community health centers have a proven track record of quality, savings, accountability, and positive economic impact, they are the breeding ground for invaluable innovation to drive further savings and better health outcomes, all while responding to the localized needs of their community. The Health Center Program is a shining example of a vital federal investment with localized control and impact, as well as massive system-wide returns in the form of improved health, economic development, and fewer health disparities in otherwise underserved communities.

Congress has the opportunity to set the nation's largest primary care network on the right course for the future. Again, we urge you to reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund for no less than $5.8 billion per year for at least 3 years.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Stephanie Krenrich, SVP of Policy and Government Affairs at Advocates for Community Health, at skrenrich@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Community Health

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[2] Peter Shin, Feygele Jacobs, and Rebecca Morris. *Community Health Centers in Financial Jeopardy Without Sufficient Federal Funding*. Geiger Gibson Program on Community Health at George Washington University, 2024. Accessed at https://geigergibson.publichealth.gwu.edu/community-health-centers-financial-jeopardy-without-sufficient-federal-funding#footnote2_bi3obad.

[3] Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. *S. 2840, Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*, February 6, 2024. https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-02/s2840.pdf.

[4] Robert Nocon, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. *Testimony on Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee*. March 02, 2023. Accessed at https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Nocon-CHCs%202023-0228_Final.pdf.

[5] National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). *Health Centers Provide Cost Effective Care*, 2015. Accessed at http://nachc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/06/Cost-Effectiveness_FS_2015.pdf.

AIDS United
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Teaching Health Centers
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Nurses Association
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
Capital Link
Epilepsy Foundation
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
Health Choice Network
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Rural Health Association
OCHIN
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Primary Care Collaborative
Primary Care Development Corporation
Upstream USA

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama:
Alabama Primary Health Care Association
AIDS Action Coalition of Huntsville dba Thrive Alabama
Alabama Regional Medical Services
Aletheia House
AltaPointe Health Systems, Inc.
Cahaba Medical Care
Central North Alabama Health Services, Inc.
Christ Health Center
Franklin Primary Health Center
HAPPI Health
Health Services, Inc.
Northeast Alabama Health Services, Inc.
Physicians Care of Clarke

Quality of Life Health Services, Inc.
Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.

Alaska:
Alaska Primary Care Association
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Iliuliuk Family and Health Services
Kodiak Community Health Center
Sunshine Community Health Center

Arizona:
Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Canyonlands Community Health Care
Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.
Circle the City
El Rio Health
Mariposa Community Health Center Inc.
Mountain Park Health Center
Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health
North Country HealthCare
Sun Life Health
Terros Health
Valleywise Health
Wesley Community & Health Centers

Arkansas:
Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.
1st Choice Healthcare, Inc.
Boston Mountain Rural Health Center
CABUN Rural Health Services, Inc.

California:
California Primary Care Association
Achievable Health
Alameda County Health
Alameda Health Consortium
Alexander Valley Healthcare
Alliance Medical Center
AltaMed Health Services
Anderson Valley Health Center
APLA Health
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Bay Area Community Health
Brighter Beginnings
Camarena Health

Camino Health Center
Chinatown Service Center
CommuniCare+OLE
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
Community Medical Centers Inc.
Community Medicine Inc.
Comprehensive Community Health Centers, Inc.
County of Sacramento, Dept of Health Services
East Valley Community Health Center
Eisner Health
El Dorado Community Health Centers
Elica Health Centers
Family HealthCare Network
Father Joe's Villages
Gracelight Community Health
Greater Fresno Health Organization
Harmony Health Medical Clinic and Family Resource Center
Health Alliance of Northern California
Health and Life Organization, Inc. (HALO)
Health Center Partners of Southern California
Hill Country Community Clinic
Hurtt Family Health Clinic
Imperial Beach Community Clinic
Kheir Clinic (Korean Health Education Information & Research Center)
Korean Community Services
La Clínica de La Raza
La Maestra Community Health Centers
LifeLong Medical Care
Long Valley Health Center
Mendocino Coast Clinics Inc.
Mountain Valleys Health Centers
Neighborhood Healthcare
Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic
North Coast Clinics Network
North East Medical Services (NEMS)
Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Omni Family Health
Open Door Community Health Centers
Opsam Health
Redwood Coast Medical Services
Samuel Dixon Family Health Center, Inc.
San Diego Family Care
San Fernando Community Health Center
San Ysidro Health
Share Our Selves Corporation
Shasta Cascade Health Centers

Sonoma Valley Community Health Center
South Central Family Health Center
Southern California Medical Center
St. Jude Neighborhood Health Centers
TCC Family Health
TrueCare
Unicare Community Health Center, Inc.
United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley
Vista Community Clinic
WellSpace Health
West County Health Centers
Western Sierra Medical Clinic
Westside Family Health Center
Yehowa Medical Services

Colorado:
Colorado Community Health Network
Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)
Axis Health System
Denver Health Community Health Services
Junction Health
Peak Vista CHC
Pueblo Community Health Center
Sunrise Community Health
Tepeyac Community Health Center
Uncompahgre Combined Clinics
Valley-Wide Health Systems

Connecticut:
Community Health Center Association of Connecticut
Community Health Center, Inc.
Generations Family Health Center, Inc.
InterCommunity Health Care
Norwalk CHC
Optimus Health Care, Inc.
Southwest Community Health Center, Inc.
StayWell Health Care, Inc.
Wheeler Health

Delaware:
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
La Red Health Center, Inc.
Henrietta Johnson Medical Letter
Westside Family Healthcare

District of Columbia:
District of Columbia Primary Care Association
Community of Hope
Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc.
Unity Health Care

Florida:
Florida Association of Community Health Centers
Broward Community & Family Health Center
Camillus Health Concern, Inc.
Central Florida Family Health Center, Inc. d/b/a True Health
Citrus Health Network
Community Health Centers of Pinellas d/b/a Evara Health
Community Health of South Florida, Inc.
FoundCare, Inc.
Genesis Community Health, Inc.
Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc.
Heart of Florida Health Center
Homestead Community Health Center, Inc
Miami Beach Community Health Center
Northeast Florida Health Services, Inc
Premier Community HealthCare
Project Health, Inc. d/b/a Langley Health Services
Rural Health Care, Inc. d/b/a Aza Health
Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc.
Tampa Family Health Centers, Inc.

Georgia:
Georgia Primary Care Association
Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.
Athens Neighborhood Health Center
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.
Christ Community Health Services Augusta
Coastal Community Health Services
Community Health Care Systems, Inc.
Curtis V Cooper Primary Health Care, Inc
Diversity Health Center, Inc.
East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc.
First Choice Primary Care
Four Corners Primary Care Centers
Georgia Highlands Medical Services
Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center
J. C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center
McKinney Medical Center
MedCura Health
Medical Associates Plus

Medlink Georgia, Inc.
Oconee Valley Healthcare Inc.
Palmetto Health Council, Inc.
Primary Care of Southwest Georgia, Inc.
Primary Health Care Center of Dade, Inc.
South Central Primary Care Center, Inc.
Southwest Georgia Healthcare Clinics,Inc
The Family Health Centers of Georgia Inc.
Tri-Med Family Care, Inc.
Valley Healthcare System Inc.
Whitefoord Health Center

Hawaii:
Hawaii Island Community Health Center
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Waimanalo Health Center

Idaho:
Idaho Community Health Center Association
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Family Health Services
Full Circle Health
Glenns Ferry Health Center dba Desert Sage Health Centers
Heritage Health
Kaniksu Community Health
Valley Family Health Care

Illinois:
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
AHS Family Health Center
Chestnut Health Systems
Christian Community Health Center
Grand Prairie Services
Howard Brown Health
Lake County Health Department and CHC
Legacy Medical Care
Macoupin County Public Health Department
Near North Health
PrimeCare Community Health
Promise Healthcare
SIHF Healthcare
Tapestry 360 Health
Wabash Community Health Center

Indiana:
Indiana Primary Health Care Association
Jane Pauley Community Health Center
Knox Winamac Community Health Centers
Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc.
Riggs Community Health Center
Valley Professionals Community Health Center, Inc.
Windrose Health Network, Inc.

Iowa:
Iowa Primary Care Association
All Care Health Center
Community Health Care, Inc.
Community Health Centers of Southeast Iowa
Eastern Iowa Health Center
River Hills Community Health Center
United Community Health Center

Kansas:
Community Care Network of Kansas
CareArc, Inc
Hunter Health
PrairieStar Health Center
Salina Family Healthcare Center
Swope Health Services

Kentucky:
Kentucky Primary Care Association
Clover Fork Clinic
Community Medical Clinic
Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.
Fairview Community Health Center
Faith Healthcare, Inc.
Family Health Centers, Inc.
HealthFirst Bluegrass
Kentucky Mountain Health Alliance, Inc.
Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation
One Cross Community
Park Duvalle Community Health Centers
Pennyroyal Healthcare Services, Inc. dba Community Medical Clinic
Regional Health Care Affiliates, Inc.
Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center
Sterling Health Solutions, Inc.
Triad Health Systems, Inc.

Louisiana:
EXCELth, INC.
MQVN Comm. Dev. Corp.
NOELA Community Health Center
Odyssey House Louisiana, Inc.
Open Health Care Clinics
Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciana, Inc.
Start Corporation
Trinity Community Health Centers of Louisiana

Maine:
Maine Primary Care Association
Fish River Rural Health
Penobscot Community Health Center, Inc.
Portland Community Health Center
Sacopee Valley Health Center
Sebasticook Family Doctors d/b/a HOMETOWN Health Center

Maryland:
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Chase Brexton Health Care
Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc.
Mobile Medical Care
Mountain Laurel Medical Center
Owensville Primary Care, Inc. d/b/a Bay Community Health
Tri-State Community Health Center
Walnut Street Community Health Center d/b/a Family Healthcare of Hagerstown

Massachusetts:
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Coalition for a Better Acre
Community Health Connections, Inc.
Family Health Center of Worcester
Harbor Health Services
Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center
Lowell Community Health Center
Lynn Community Health Center
NeighborHealth (formally known as the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center)
North Shore Community Health
Upham's Community Care
Whittier Street Health Center

Michigan:
Michigan Primary Care Association
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers
Honor Community Health

Sterling Area Health Center
East Jordan Family Health Center

Minnesota:
Native American Community Clinic

Mississippi:
Community Health Center Association of Mississippi
Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc.
Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center
Family Health Care Clinic, Inc.
Family Health Center, Inc.
G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc.

Missouri:
Missouri Primary Care Association
Affinia Healthcare
Compass Health Network
Fordland Clinic Inc.
Great Mines Health Center
Jordan Valley Community Health Center
Missouri Ozarks Community Health
Northeast Missouri Health Council
Ozark Tri-County Healthcare Consortium d/b/a ACCESS Family Care
Ozarks Community Health Center
People's Community Action Corporation
Regional Health Care Clinic
South Central Missouri Community Health Center
Swope Health

Montana:
Montana Primary Care Association
One Health
Partnership Health Center
Alluvion Health
Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc.

Nebraska:
Health Center Association of Nebraska
Bluestem Health
Charles Drew Health Center, Inc.
East Central District Health Department (Good Neighbor Community Health Center)
Heartland Health Center, Inc.
OneWorld Community Health Centers

Nevada:
Nevada Primary Care Association

New Hampshire:
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS)
Amoskeag Health
Coos County Family Health Services
Greater Seacoast Community Health
Harbor Care
HealthFirst Family Care Center
Lamprey Health Care
Mid-State Health Center
White Mountain Community Health Center

New Jersey:
Alliance Community Healthcare Inc.
Lakewood Resource and Referral Center
Neighborhood Health Services Corporation
Ocean Health Initiative Inc
Zufall Health Center, Inc.

New Mexico:
Ben Archer Health Center
De Baca Family Practice Clinic
El Pueblo Health Services
La Casa Family Health Center
Presbyterian Medical Services
Southwest Care Center

New York:
Beacon Christian Community Health Center
Betances Health Center
BronxCare Health Integrated Services System Inc.
Care For the Homeless
CHI Health Center
Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.
Evergreen Health
Ezra Medical Center
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
Family Health Network of Central New York, Inc.
Institute for Family Health
Jericho Road Community Health Center
Morris Heights Health Center
Southern Tier Community Health Center Network d/b/a Universal Primary Care

Sun River Health
Vocational Instruction Project (VIP) Community Services, Inc.

North Carolina:
North Carolina Community Health Center Association
Blue Ridge Health
CommWell Health
Craven County Community Health Center
Lincoln Community Health Center
NeighborHealth Center
Piedmont Health Services
The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc.
Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine, Inc.
West Caldwell Health Council, Inc.
Western North Carolina Community Health Services

North Dakota:
Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)
Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc.

Ohio:
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
Christian Community Health Services
City of Cincinnati Primary Care
Community Health & Wellness Partners
Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton
Erie County Community Health Center
Fairfield Community Health Center
Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio
Five Rivers Health Centers
HealthSource of Ohio
Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers
Knox County
Lorain County Health & Dentistry
Lower Lights Health
Muskingum Valley Health Centers
Ohio Hills Health Services
Primary Health Solutions
PrimaryOne Health
Signature Health, Inc.
SpringVale Health Centers, Inc.
Talbert House Health Center
The Ohio State University Total Health Care Center
Third Street Family Health Services
Valley Health Systems

Oklahoma:
Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma, Inc.
Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.

Oregon:
Oregon Primary Care Association
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Adapt Integrated Health Care
Aviva Health
Cascade AIDS Project - Prism Health
Cascadia Health
Mosaic Community Health
Tillamook County Community Health Centers
Wallace Medical Concern
Valley Family Health Care

Pennsylvania:
Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
Broad Top Area Medical Center, Inc.
ChesPenn Health Services
Community Health & Dental Care, Inc.
Family Practice & Counseling Network
Hamilton Health Center, Inc.
Keystone Rural Health Center
Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.
Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
Resources for Human Development, Inc.
Spectrum Health Services, Inc.
Southern Tier Community Health Center Network d/b/a Universal Primary Care

Puerto Rico:
Centro De Servicios Primarios De Salud, Inc.
Community Health Foundation of Puerto Rico, Inc.
Concilio de Salud Integral de Loiza, Inc.
Corporación de Servicios Primarios y Prevención de Hatillo
CSF Dr. Julio Palmieri Ferri
NeoMed Center
Salud Integral en la Montaña, Inc.

Rhode Island:
Rhode Island Health Center Association
Wood River Health

South Carolina:
South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
Genesis Healthcare, Inc.

HopeHealth
Little River Medical Center, Inc.
Tandem Health SC

South Dakota:
Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)

Tennessee:
Tennessee Primary Care Association
Cherokee Health Systems
Hardin County Regional Health Center d/b/a Lifespan Health
HOPE Family Health Services
Morgan County Health Council, Inc. d/b/a Morgan Co
Mountain People's Health
Neighborhood Health
Perry County Medical Center, Inc.
Rural Medical Services

Texas:
Bee Busy Wellness Center
Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation
CommuniCare Health Centers
Community Health Center of Lubbock
Foremost Family Health Centers
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
La Esperanza Clinic
Legacy Community Health
Lone Star Circle of Care
Longview Wellness Center, Inc. d/b/a Wellness Pointe
Maxor
MLK Center DBA Foremost Family Health Center
North Central Texas Community Health Care Center
North Texas Area Community Health Center.
Project Vida Health Center
ResourceCare
Southwest Border AHEC
Spring Branch Community Health Center
Triangle Area Network, Inc. (TAN Healthcare)

Utah:
Association for Utah Community Health
Carbon Medical Service Association, Inc.
Community Health Centers Inc
Green River Medical Center
Midtown Community Health Center
Mountainlands Community Health Center

Southwest Utah Community Health Center
Utah Academy of Family Physicians
Utah Partners for Health
Utah Public Health Association
Voices for Utah Children
Wasatch Homeless Healthcare, dba Fourth Street Clinic
Wayne Community Health Centers, Inc.

Vermont:
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Community Health Centers of Burlington
Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region
Gifford Health Care
Lamoille Health Partners
Little Rivers Health Care, Inc.
Northern Counties Health Care
Richford Health Center, Inc.
Springfield Medical Care Systems, Inc.
The Health Center

Virginia:
Virginia Community Healthcare Association
Bland County Medical Clinic
CHCollective
Johnson Health Center
New Horizons Healthcare
Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems, Inc.,
Tri-Area Community Health

Washington:
Washington Association for Community Health
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Columbia Basin Health Association
Columbia Valley Community Health
Community Health Care
Community Health Care of Tacoma
HealthPoint
International Community Health Services
Moses Lake Community Health Center
Neighborcare Health
North Olympic Healthcare Network
Peninsula Community Health Services
Seattle Indian Health Board
Unity Care NW
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

West Virginia:
West Virginia Primary Care Association
Cabin Creek Health Systems
CHANGE, Inc.
Clay-Battelle Health Services Association
Coalfield Health Center
Community Care of West Virginia
Coplin Health Systems
E.A. Hawse Health Center, Inc.
Integrated Health Centers of West Virginia
Lincoln Primary Care/Southern WV Health System
Minnie Hamilton Health System
Monongahela Valley Association of Health Centers, Inc.
Monroe County Health Center
Mountain Laurel Medical Center
New River Health Association
Pendleton Community Care, Inc.
Roane County Family Health Care, Inc.
Shenandoah Valley Medical System, Inc.
Tug River Health Association
Valley Health Care
Valley Health Systems

Wisconsin:
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
Marshfield Clinic
Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center

Wyoming:
Wyoming Primary Care Association
Community Action of Laramie County/CHC
HealthWorks
Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc.

Additional United States Territories:
Pacific Islands Primary Care Association (Representing Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and American Samoa)
American Samoa Department of Health

CC: The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee
The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D., Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Energy and Commerce

Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce
Committee