November 14, 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,

We, the undersigned organizations, represent a cross-section of essential clinician and healthcare workforce stakeholders dedicated to caring for underserved communities. Our commitment is to strengthen the healthcare workforce and advance health equity, especially for individuals in medically underserved areas and Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). We are deeply concerned about the imminent expiration of mandatory funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program, which is set to end on December 31st.

Extending and enhancing funding for the NHSC and sustaining federal support for THCGME, which trains primary care physicians in community settings, are critical needs. As the nation faces severe healthcare workforce shortages—especially in rural and underserved areas—reauthorizing funding for these programs will help address patient care needs nationwide. For fifty years, the NHSC has addressed workforce shortages, and the THCGME program—the only federal initiative training future physicians in community-based settings—has enjoyed over a decade of bipartisan support.

We urge Congressional leaders to promptly reauthorize and invest in the NHSC and THCGME programs. S. 2840, the *Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*, introduced by Senators Sanders and Marshall, proposes to reauthorize mandatory NHSC funding at $950 million per year for three years and to increase THCGME funding to $300 million per year for five years. Our stakeholders commend Senators Sanders and Marshall for championing this bipartisan legislation, which sustains vital NHSC funding. Since 1972, the NHSC has placed over 75,000 healthcare providers in underserved areas, supporting 18,000 clinicians who care for more than 19 million people nationwide. The NHSC serves over 75 million people in primary care HPSAs by providing scholarships and loan repayment programs to healthcare providers committed to these communities.

Despite rising demand, NHSC funding has declined by nearly $220 million in FY23 and almost $90 million in FY24. An estimated $965.6 million is needed in FY24 to meet growing needs and projected clinician shortages. As a nation, we are at a breaking point with respect to healthcare workforce shortages, particularly in underserved communities in every corner of the nation. This investment in the NHSC equates to sustaining an NHSC field strength of 20,000 clinicians. Now is a time when we can least afford to see a decline in the number of clinicians providing care in these high-need communities. The THCGME program, which has strong bipartisan support, currently trains nearly 1,200 medical and dental residents across 82 Teaching Health Centers in nearly 30 states. These residents provide care in over one million patient visits annually, addressing critical primary care shortages nationwide. The centers in this program, which place doctors where they are most needed, often receive over 100 applications for each residency slot. Many THCGME residents continue practicing in the communities where they trained, strengthening local healthcare systems and establishing long-term roots.

We urge you, along with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to support the *Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*—an essential bipartisan effort to continue funding the Corps and the THCGME program, which together make healthcare more accessible to those most in need.

Thank you for your leadership on the committee and for allowing this group of stakeholders to express its support for the *Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*. If you or your staff would like to discuss in further detail how preserving and strengthening the NHSC's critical funding will help alleviate workforce shortages, please contact Amanda Pears Kelly at apearskelly@clinicians.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Community Health
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Teaching Health Centers
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
CHCollective
Families USA
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Rural Health Association
OCHIN
PA Education Association (PAEA)

Primary Care Collaborative
Upstream USA
Adelante Healthcare
Alabama Primary Health Care Association
Alameda Health Consortium
Alaska Primary Care Association
Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.
AmberMed
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc., (ACHS)
Amoskeag Health
Anderson Valley Health Center
Apicha Community Health Center
Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic
Association for Utah Community Health
Athens Neighborhood Health Center
Aviva Health
Baldwin Family Health Care
Baltimore Medical System, Inc.
Bay Area Community Health
Baywell Health
Betances Health Center
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Bluestem Health
Bond Community Health Center, Inc.
Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.
Brighter Beginnings
Broad Top Area Medical Center, Inc.
Broward Community and Family Health Centers
CABUN Rural Health Services, Inc.
Cahaba Medical Care Foundation
California Primary Care Association
Canyonlands Community Health Care
Capstone Health
Careteam Plus, Inc
Catahoula Parish Hospital District #2
Central City Concern
Central Florida Family Health Center, Inc. dba True Health
Central Florida Health Care
Centro Medico Community Clinic
Chase Brexton Health Care
Cherokee Health Systems
Cherry Health
ChesPenn Health Services

Chestnut Health Systems, Inc.
Chinatown Service Center
Chiricahua Health Foundation
Christ Health Center
Circle the City
Citizens of Lake county for Health Care Inc.
City of Cincinnati Primary Care
Clinica Sierra Vista
Colorado Community Health Network
Colorado Rural Health Center
Columbia Valley Community Health
Community Care Network of Kansas
Community Health & Wellness Partners
Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County
Community Health Care Association of New York State
Community Health Care of Tacoma
Community Health Care Systems, Inc.
Community Health Care, Inc.
Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHC/ACT)
Community Health Center Association of Mississippi
Community Health Center of Buffalo, NY
Community Health Center of Fort Dodge, Inc
Community Health Center of Snohomish
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
Community Health Centers of Pinellas dba Evara Health
Community Health Centers, Inc.
Community Health Development, Inc.
Community Health Initiatives, Inc.
Community Health of Central Washington
Community Health Partnership of Illinois
Community Healthcare Network
CommWell Health
Compass Community Health
Compass Health Network
Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc.
Coos County Family Health Services
Coppertower Family Medical Center, Inc. dba: Alexander Valley Healthcare
Council of Academic Family Medicine
Cowlitz Family Health Center
CrescentCare
Crossroad Health Center, Cincinnati
Curtis V Cooper Primary Health Care, Inc.
Delaware Valley Community Health, Inc.
Denver Health Community Health Services

Desert Sage Health Centers
Diversity Health Center, Inc.
Eastern Iowa Health Center
Edgewater Health
El Rio Health
Elaine Ellis Center of Health
Equity Health
Erie Family Health Centers
Esperanza Health Centers
Fair Haven Community Health Care
Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc.
Family Christian Health Center
Family First Health
Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio
Family Health Center of Worcester
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
Family Health Centers of San Diego
Family Health Centers, Inc.
FHCSD, Inc
First Choice Health Centers Inc
First Choice Primary Care
Florida Association of Community Health Centers
Four Corners Primary Care Centers
FourPoints Health
Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc.
Friend Family Health Center, Inc.
Friends of Family Health Center
Full Circle Health
G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc.
Generations Family Health Center, Inc.
George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences
Georgia Highlands Medical Services
Georgia Mountains Health Services, Inc.
Georgia Primary Care Association
Gifford Health Care
Golden Valley Health Centers
Gracemed Health Clinic, Inc.
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers
Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.
Greater Fresno Health Organization, Inc.
Green RIver Medical Center
Gulf Coast Health Center Inc
Hamilton Health Center, Inc.
Harmony Health Medical Clinic and Family Resource Center

Hawaii State Rural Health Association
HCC Network
Health Center Association of Nebraska
HealthCare Choices NY
HealthFirst Family Care Center, Inc.
HealthPoint
HealthSource of Ohio
Heart of Florida Health Center
Heritage Health
High Country Community Health
Highland Medical Center
HopeHealth
Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Idaho Community Health Center Association
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
Indiana Health Centers, Inc.
Indiana Primary Health Care Association
Infinity Health
Inland Behavioral and Health Services, Inc. (IBHS)
Institute for Family Health
Iowa Primary Care Association
Kenosha Community Health Center, Inc.
Kentucky Primary Care Association
Kentucky Rural Health Association
Keystone Rural Health Center
Kheir Clinic
Knox Winamac Community Health Centers, Inc.
Kodiak Community Health Center
Kokua Kalihi Valley
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc.
La Red Health Center
Lamprey Health Care
Legacy Community Health
Little River Medical Center
Lone Star Circle of Care
Lowell Community Health Center
Lower Lights Health
Maine Primary Care Association
Marias Healthcare Services Inc
Marillac Community Health Centers dba DePaul Community Health Centers
Mariposa Community Health Center, Inc.
Maryland Rural Health Association
Mass General Brigham
McKinney Medical Center

MedCura Health
Medical Associates Plus
MEDIS, LLC
Medlink Georgia, Inc.
Meridian Education Resource Group / Whitefoord Health Center
Michigan Primary Care Association
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Midtown Community Health Center
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
Minnesota Community Care
Missouri Ozarks Community Health
Missouri Primary Care Association
Morton Comprehensive Health Center, Inc.
Mosaic Community Health
Moses Lake Community Health Center
Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation
Mountain Park Health Center
Mountain People's Health Councils, Inc.
MyCare Health Center
Native American Health Center, Inc.
Native Health of Phoenix
Neighborcare Health
Neighborhood Family Practice (Cleveland, OH)
Neighborhood Health Center
Neighborhood Improvement Project, Inc.
Nevada Primary Care Association
New England Rural Health Association
New Mexico Primary Care Association
New Mexico Rural Health Association
New York State Association for Rural Health
North Carolina Community Health Center Association
North Country HealthCare
North Dakota Rural Health Association
North East Medical Services
North Olympic Healthcare Network
Northwest Human Services
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Nuestra Clinica del Valle, Inc.
Oconee Valley Healthcare Inc
Odyssey House Louisiana, Inc.
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
Open Door Community Health Centers
Open Door Health Center
Oregon Office of Rural Health

Oregon Primary Care Association
Osteopathic Medical Education Consortium of Oklahoma
Owensville Primary Care Inc d/b/a Bay Community Health
PA Association of Community Health Centers
Palmetto Health Council, Inc.
Partnership Health Center
Pennsylvania Rural Health Association
Pennyroyal Healthcare Services, Inc.dba Community Medical Clinic
Peoples Community Health Clinic, Inc.
Piedmont Health Services
Premier Community HealthCare
Premise Health
Primary Health Care Center of Dade, Inc.
Primary Health Care, Inc.
PrimaryOne Health
PrimaryPlus Family Medicine Residency
PrimeCare Community Health
Project Vida Health Center
Promise Community Health Center
Pueblo Community Health Center
Rainelle Medical Center
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc
Remarkable Leadership Lessons, Inc.
ResourceCare
Resources for Human Development/Family Practice & Counseling Network
Rhode Island Health Center Association
Richford Health Center, Inc. (Notch)
River Hills Community Health Center
Rural Health Medical Program Inc.
Rural Medical Services
Sacopee Valley Health Center
Safe Harbor Medical
Salina Family Healthcare Center
Salud Family Health Center
San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium
San Ysidro Health
Sawtooth Mountain Clinic
SEMO Health Network
Settlement Health
Shingletown Medical Center
SIU Center for Family Medicine FQHC
South Central Primary Care Center, Inc.
Southeast Alabama Rural Health Associates
Southern Indiana Community Health Care, Inc.

Southwest Community Health Center, Inc.
Southwest Utah Community Health Center
Stedman-Wade Health Services, Inc.
Sterling Health Solutions, Inc.
Sunrise Community Health
TCC Family Health
Tennessee Primary Care Association
Tepeyac Community Health Center
The Inline Group
The MetroHealth Community Health Centers
The Ohio State University Total Health Care Center
The Wright Centers for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education
Thrive Alabama
Tri-Area Community Health
Tri-Med Family Care, Inc.
Tri-State Community Health Center
TrueCare
Tulip Tree Family Health Care
UMass Chan Medical School
United Community and Family Services, Inc.
United Community Health Center - Maria Auxiliadora Inc
Unity Care NW
Valley Family Health Care
Valley Healthcare System, Inc. of Columbus, GA
Valley-Wide Health Systems
Virginia Community Healthcare Association
Virginia Rural Health Association
Vocational Instruction Project Community Services, Inc.
Waab Community Health Center
Warwick Area Farmworker Organization
Washington Association for Community Health
Westside Family Healthcare
White Mountain Community Health Center
Winding Waters Clinic
Windrose Health Network, Inc.
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
WNCCHS
WV Rural Health Association
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

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