

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2019

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

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

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

We want to thank the Subcommittee for your continued support and recognition of health centers as a longstanding bipartisan solution to the primary care access problems facing this country. As you proceed with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee provide level funding for Community Health Centers within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2020 to ensure that they can remain providers of high quality, cost-effective primary care, and continue to provide innovative, high-value health care in medically-underserved communities across the nation.

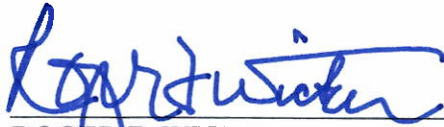
Since the first health centers opened their doors more than fifty years ago, health centers have proven to be a worthwhile investment, providing quality and affordable primary and preventive care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision and a variety of complementary services to America's most vulnerable patients and medically-underserved communities. Today, thanks to longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, well over 1,400 health center organizations serve more than 11,000 urban and rural communities in every state and U.S. Territory. Health centers are the health care home for over 28 million patients, or one in every twelve people, including 8 million children and over 355,000 veterans. Health centers employ nearly 220,000 people, generate \$54 billion in economic impact for local communities and provide overall cost-savings for the health care system.

The demand for health center services, especially behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment, continues to grow in every state. Combined with the mandatory investments made through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, annual appropriations for the Health Center Program are critical to the success of health centers nationwide as they meet growing demand for affordable health care and respond to the changing needs of their communities, whether helping fight outbreaks of flu and measles, dispensing care in areas impacted by wildfires and floods, or providing treatment for opioid addiction.

As Congress works to improve access to comprehensive medical, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, reduce health care spending, and promote patient-centered solutions to our health care challenges, we urge the Subcommittee to continue supporting health centers, which have a proven track record of success. We ask that as you consider the Subcommittee's budget

priorities in FY20, that you keep funding whole for this proven and cost-effective integrated health care system. Thank you for your continued support of the health center system of care nationwide.

Sincerely,



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United States Senator



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United States Senator



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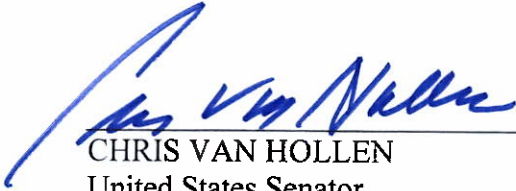
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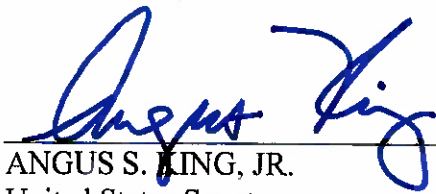
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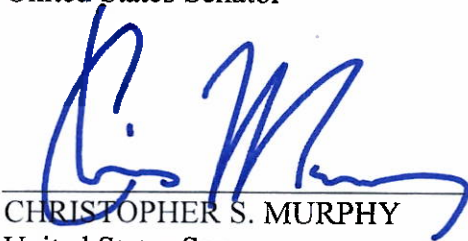
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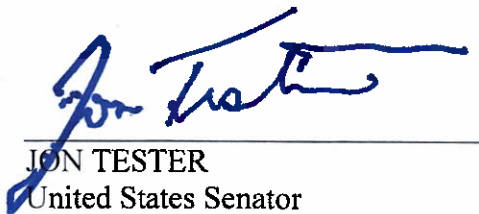
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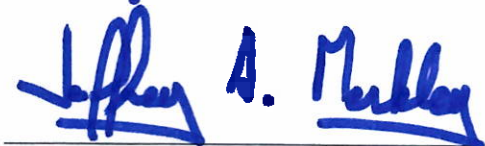
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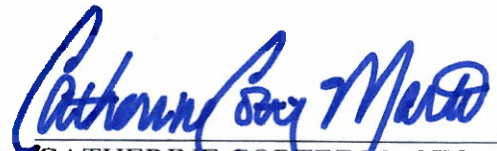

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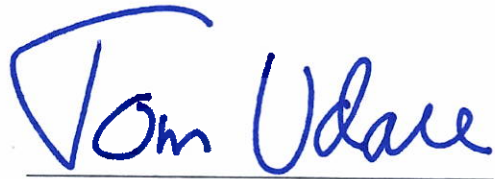

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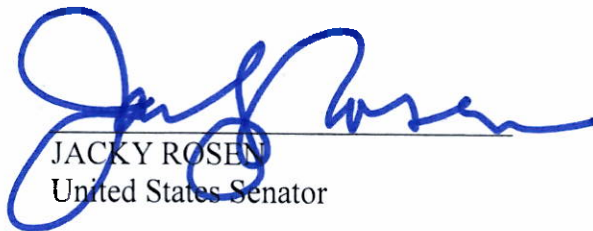
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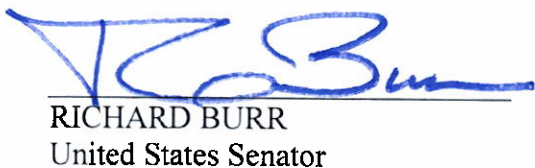
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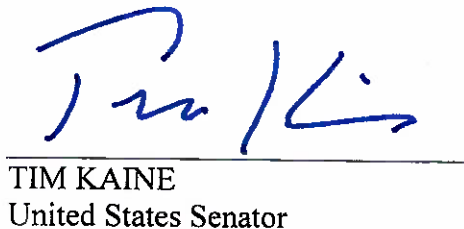
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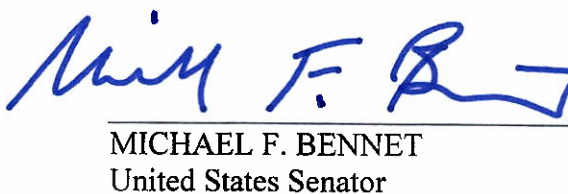
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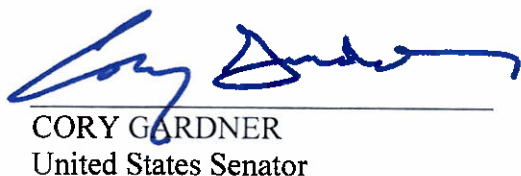
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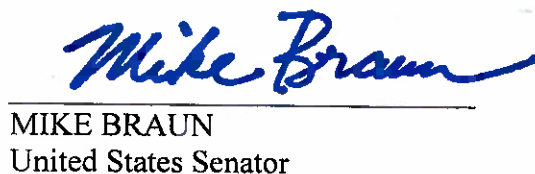
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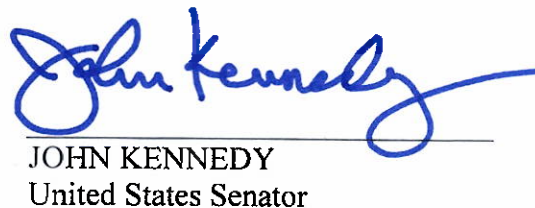
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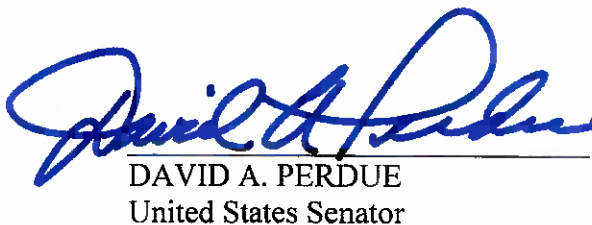
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