

# FEDERAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY UPDATE

NEW MEXICO PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

JUNE 13, 2019

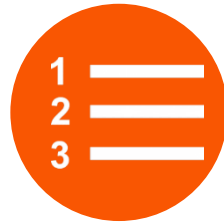
Joe Gallegos, MBA

Senior Vice President Western Operations  
National Association of Community Health Centers

# Agenda



**Latest from Capitol  
Hill and  
Administration**



**What to  
Expect in 2019**



**Staying  
Involved with  
Health Center  
Advocacy**

# The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress and Health Centers

- New Policymakers for CHC Advocates to Educate
  - At least 90 New Representatives and 9 New Senators
- New House Leadership and New Committee Chairmen w/ different priorities
  - i.e. New Speaker of the House (Pelosi), New Senate Finance Chair (Grassley), New House R Appropriations lead (Granger), New E&C D Health Subcommittee Chair (Eshoo)



**Split House and Senate may leave few options for bipartisanship:  
Health Centers may stand out more than ever!**

# Health Centers on Capitol Hill

**Rep. Derek Kilmer**   
@RepDerekKilmer Follow

"If it weren't for Medicaid, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be alive." That was the message Taylor shared with me this morning at Community Health Care's Hilltop Regional Health Center.



2:08 PM - 29 Mar 2019

**Senator Dick Durbin**   
@SenatorDurbin Follow

Good to see Illinois community health center leaders from the @IllinoisPCA in DC yesterday. These health clinics provide affordable, quality care to 1 in 9 Illinoisans across our great state.



8:03 AM - 29 Mar 2019

**Nanette D. Barragán**   
@RepBarragan Follow

Great to hear from #CA44 community health center leaders who discussed their work and federal needs to increase access to health services and improve the quality of life for our families and children.



4:56 PM - 22 Feb 2019

6 Retweets 17 Likes



# What is likely to be on Congress' agenda?

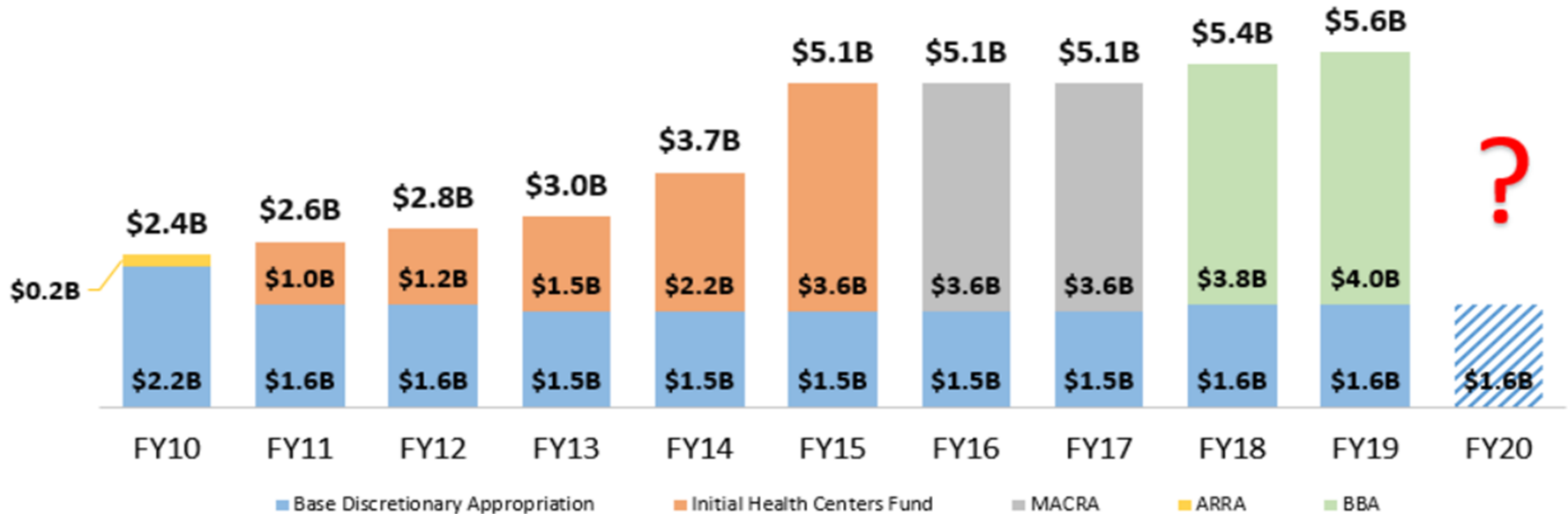
- ✓ Drug pricing
- ✓ Medicare and public health extenders (including CHCs)
- ✓ Rural health package
- ✓ New Budget Cap deal
- ✓ Debt ceiling
- ✓ Additional opioid work?
- ✓ Infrastructure investments?
- ✓ Immigration reform?



# NACHC's 2019 Legislative Agenda

- ✓ **Community Health Center Funding – Mandatory**
- ✓ **Community Health Center Funding – Appropriations**
- ✓ **Workforce Program Extensions – National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers program**
- ✓ **Other Key Issues, including 340B, Medicaid, Behavioral Health and Telehealth**

# Community Health Center Funding



CHCs were only funded through the annual budget prior to 2010 (Blue)

2010: Congress created a dedicated 5-year fund for growth in CHCs (Orange)

In 2015 & 2018, CHC advocates succeeded in getting 2-year extensions (Gray & Green)

# Community Health Center Fund

## “Mandatory” funding

- Required spending, unless Congress changes the law
- Special 5-year, \$11 billion fund created in ACA to boost health center capacity
- Extended twice since 2010, each time for two years (in MACRA & BBA)
- Currently \$4.0 billion/year (FY19)
- **Will expire September 30, 2019 without Congressional action**



# Arguments for Early Action

- Without sustainable and predictable funding, health centers will continue to experience operational and service related impacts, placing our patients' care in jeopardy.
- For example, at my health center...(tell your local story about recruitment challenges, layoffs, cutbacks on programs and services, etc.)
- Health centers are small businesses and need to be able to plan for the future, we cannot wait until the last minute to know whether or not the funding will be there.

# What is Our Ask?

**We need Members of Congress to cosponsor at least one bill to extend long term and stable funding:**

- CHIME (S. 106/ H.R. 2328)
- Senate HELP (S. 192)
- Sanders-Clyburn bill (S. 962/H.R. 1943)

**Advocacy Push:**

Go to [www.hcadvocacy.org/takeaction](http://www.hcadvocacy.org/takeaction)

## Take Action to Extend the Community Health Center Fund And Other Workforce Programs



For almost a decade, Congress has made a bipartisan investment in the Community Health Center Fund, which provides the foundation for the health center model of care. Federal investments supporting the Health Center Program must be sustained in a long-term and stable manner to ensure health centers' ability to plan for the future, recruit staff, and expand services for patients, as well as to reduce the uncertainty caused by year-to-year renewals of this critical investment in access to care.

**Health Centers ask Members of Congress to cosponsor at least one piece of the following legislation in support of health center funding:**

	S. 106/H.R. 2328 CHIME Act	S. 192 Community and Public Health Programs Extension Act	S. 962/H.R. 1943 Community Health Center and Primary Care Workforce Expansion Act
Length of Extension for Community Health Center Fund (CHCF)	5 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs
Includes Funding Increases for CHCF	✓ + \$200 mil/yr	Level Funding	✓ + 10%/yr
Extends Funding for National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program	✓ NHSC	✓ NHSC, THCGME	✓ NHSC
Other Program Investments		✓ Special Diabetes Programs	✓ \$4.6 billion Health Center Capital Funding
Bipartisan Cosponsors	✓	✓	

Refer to the following page for more detailed information on each bill.  
For additional questions, please email [federalaffairs@NACHC.org](mailto:federalaffairs@NACHC.org).

# Appropriations

## “Discretionary” Funding

- Annual process, up to Congress (Appropriations Committees) to determine amount
- Congress currently working on 12 FY20 appropriations bills – House Labor, Health and Human Services Sub-Committee voted last month: \$1.68 Billion - \$50 million increase for HIV.
- Prior to ACA, this was the only source of federal grant funding for Health Center Program
- **Currently \$1.63 billion/year (FY19)**
- House Energy & Commerce held hearing last week on vital importance of stable and continuous funding of CHCs; NHSC, and THC Program

# Appropriations Season Success!

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We want to thank the subcommittee for its continued support and recognition of health centers as an important way to address the primary care access challenges facing the nation. As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding for the Health Center Program at the Health and Resources Services Administration.

This vital program supports Community Health Centers, which provide comprehensive health services—including, primary and preventive care, behavioral health, and dental care—to vulnerable and underserved communities. Today, thanks to the longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, the nation's 1,400 Community Health Centers serve 28 million Americans, including eight million children and 355,000 veterans. In addition, these safety-net providers employ over 220,000 Americans in approximately 11,000 communities, ranging from rural areas to urban centers. Each year, Community Health Centers generate approximately \$54 billion in economic activity and save the health care system an estimated \$24 billion.

Community Health Centers are also on the frontline of addressing the nation's changing health care needs. As the nation's senior population grows, there will be a greater demand for primary care and case-management services to treat chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Community Health Centers have a proven record of using cost-effective, clinical strategies to deliver these services. In addition, Community Health Centers are on the forefront of responding to public health crises, including the opioid epidemic, flu outbreaks, and natural disasters. Community Health Centers are a cornerstone of the nation's health care system and need reliable, sustained federal support to continue their work.

Thank you for your past bipartisan support of Community Health Centers. We urge you to continue that support into FY 2020 by providing robust funding for the Health Center Program in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

*Rosa DeLauro*  
Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman of Congress

*Tom Cole*  
Tom Cole  
Ranking Member of Congress

*Gus M. Bilirakis*  
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

*Michael R. Turner*  
Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

*Steve Cohen*  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

*Frank Pallone, Jr.*  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*David E. Price*  
David E. Price  
Member of Congress

*Stephen F. Lynch*  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

*Jerrold Nadler*  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

- House letter closed at **278 signatures** on March 28
- Senate letter closed at **68 signatures** on April 5
- House Appropriations draft bill contains **additional \$50 million for CHCs** – Stay tuned for more from the Senate

## NHSC

### National Health Service Corps

- NHSC supports clinicians in underserved areas through loan repayment & scholarships
- 54% of the roughly 11,000 NHSC clinicians nationwide practice in health centers
- Extended for 2 years in MACRA & BBA
  - NHSC Trust Fund is \$310m (mandatory)
  - Discretionary NHSC Funds is \$105m

## THCGME

### Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education

- Brings residency training for physicians/dentists into community-based setting
- Most of the 56 THCGME sites are health centers
- Residents trained in THCGME sites more likely to stay and practice in rural/underserved areas
  - Over 630 new providers have trained at THCs
- Extended for 2 years in MACRA & BBA (\$126.5m)



# Stay Engaged and In-the-Know



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Twitter: @HCAAdvocacy



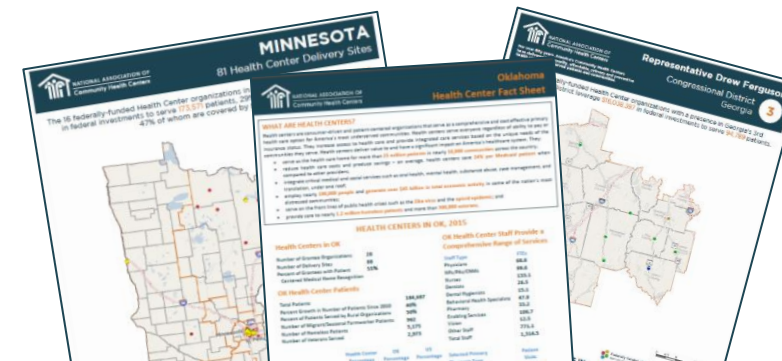
Sign up for the weekly Washington Update, calls to action, and other important advocacy communications at

[www.hcadvocacy.org/join](http://www.hcadvocacy.org/join)

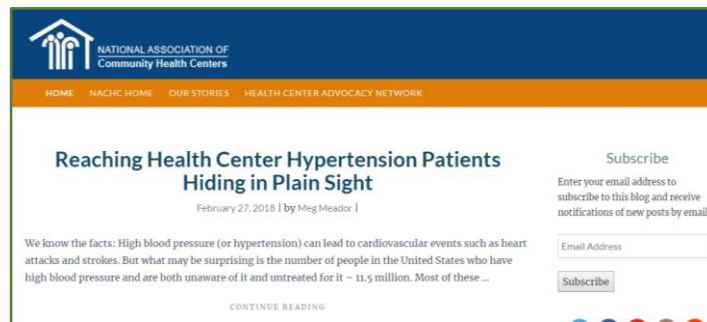
# Online Resources



**NACHC Policy Papers**



**State and Congressional District  
Maps, State Fact Sheets**



**NACHC Blog**



**NACHC Webpage**



**NACHC Fact Sheets**

For these and other materials, go to [www.nachc.org/policy-matters](http://www.nachc.org/policy-matters)

# Questions?

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