FEDERAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY UPDATE

NEW MEXICO PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

JUNE 13, 2019

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Agenda

Latest from Capitol Hill and Administration

What to Expect in 2019

Staying Involved with Health Center Advocacy
The 116th 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

"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.

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.

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.
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
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
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!

- 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)
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Questions?

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