

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2018

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. **During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee continue to recognize Community Health Centers as providers of high quality, cost-effective primary care, and that you work to ensure the continuation of the innovative, high-value health center model of care within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2019.**

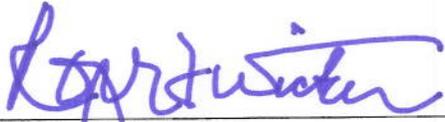
Since the first health centers opened their doors more than fifty years ago, health centers have proven to be a worthwhile investment, providing high-quality and affordable primary care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision, and a variety of complementary services to America's most vulnerable patients and medically-underserved communities. Today, thanks to longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, well over 1,400 health center organizations serve more than 10,400 urban and rural communities nationwide. Health centers are the health-care home for over 27 million patients, including 8 million children and over 330,000 veterans. Health centers employ nearly 208,000 people, generating billions of dollars in economic impact for communities and overall cost-savings for the health care system.

The demand for health center services, especially behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment, has grown in recent years. Combined with the investments made on a bipartisan basis through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, annual appropriations for the Health Centers 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, helping fight outbreaks of flu and Zika, dispensing care in areas impacted by natural disasters, and by providing treatment for opioid addiction.

As Congress works to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, reduce health-care expenditures, 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. Thank you for your continued support of the vital role health centers play in

preserving and expanding access to care in the communities they serve. We ask that as you consider the Subcommittee's budget priorities, you support this proven and cost-effective model of care at the levels outlined in the Bipartisan Budget Act.

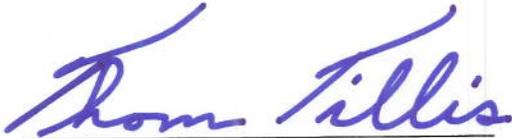
Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



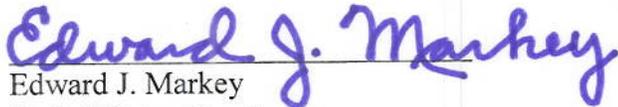
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



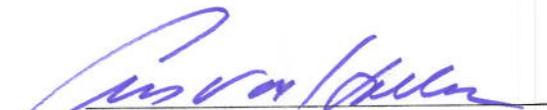
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



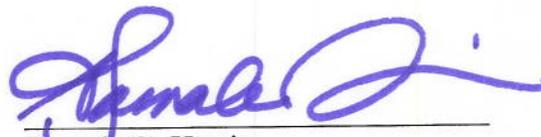
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



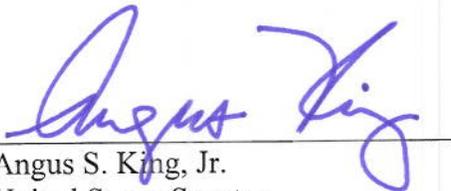
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



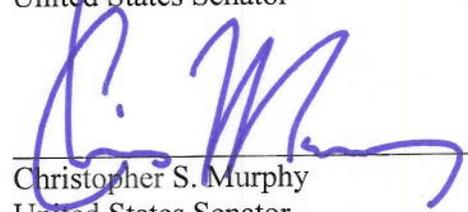
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



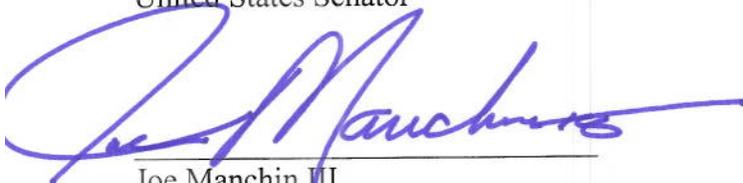
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



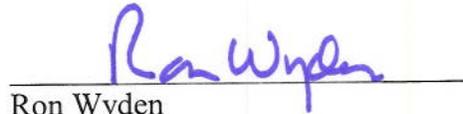
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



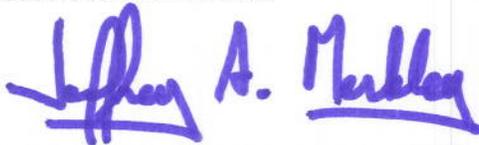
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



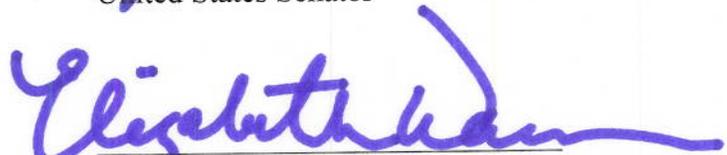
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



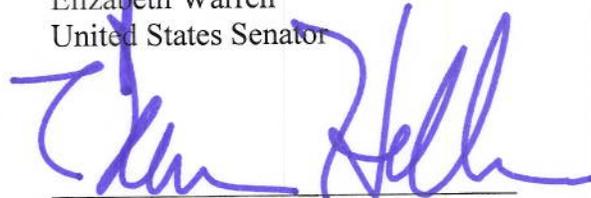
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



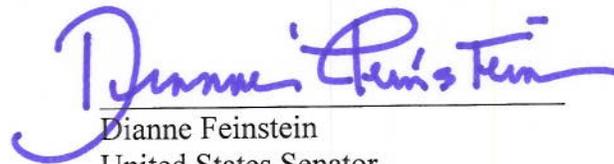
Steve Daines
United States Senator



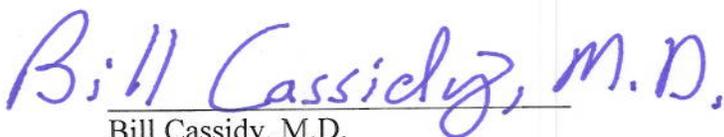
Dean Heller
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Ben Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Tom Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

John Cornyn

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Shelby

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner

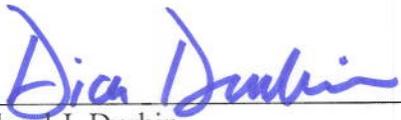
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



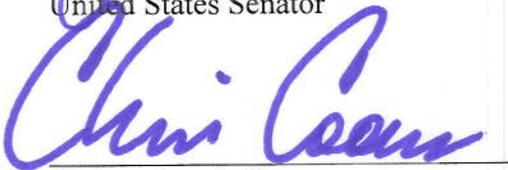
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



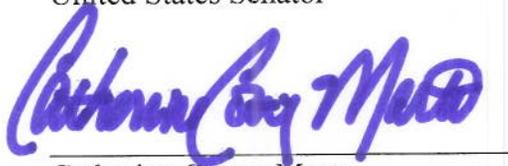
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



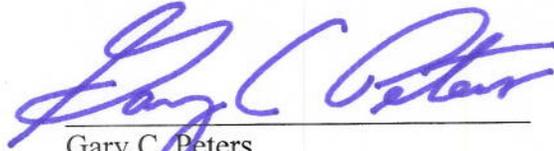
Richard Burr
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



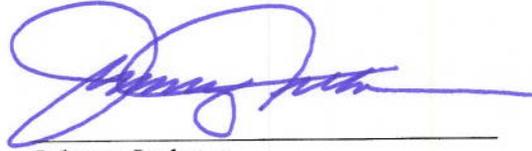
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



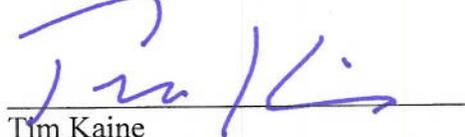
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



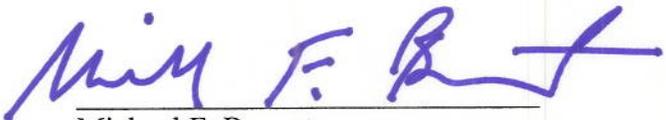
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



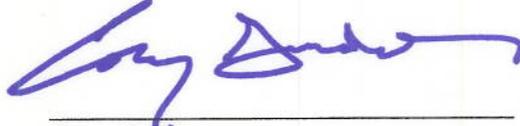
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



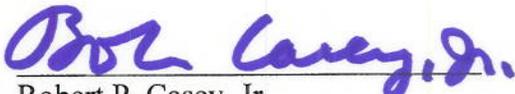
John Hoeven
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



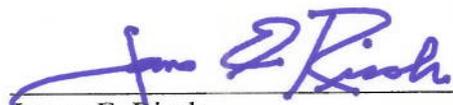
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



David A. Perdue
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator