

House to Vote on Health Center Reauthorization Contact Your Member of Congress TODAY!

On Wednesday, May 7th the House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously approved the Health Center Renewal Act (HR 1343), reauthorizing the Health Centers Program for five years and providing target funding increases consistent with the ACCESS for All America growth plan through the year 2012. The next step for final passage of health center reauthorization in the House is a full vote on the House floor which may come as early as next week.

It is critical that the Health Center Renewal Act pass with overwhelming support in the House in order to build the momentum we need to get this bill passed in the Senate. To be successful we need you to:

Contact your Member of Congress TODAY to urge them to vote YES on HR 1343 when it comes to the House floor.

EVERY Representative needs to hear from health center advocates! Even if you know your Member of Congress is a strong supporter of health centers - Thank them for their support and reinforce the need for their YES vote on the House floor.

In order to ensure health center reauthorization becomes a reality we need to do all we can to achieve a UNANIMOUS VOTE in the House in order to build momentum as the bill moves to the Senate for final consideration. Click the link at the end of this message to contact your Member of Congress today!

We need every Member of the House to vote YES on health center reauthorization!

Background

The Health Center Renewal Act (HR 1343) was recently passed unanimously by both the Health Subcommittee and full Energy and Commerce Committee. In addition to the five year straight reauthorization and inclusion of funding targets, the language also included long standing health center legislative priorities to provide liability protection for health center volunteer practitioners as well as clarification language providing FTCA coverage for health center practitioners providing services in emergency areas. While the House bill now moves to the House floor for a final vote, the Senate version of the Health Center Renewal Act (S.901) is currently on hold on the Senate floor due to a very small contingent of Republican Senators.

In order to build momentum and move the Senate bill forward for final passage of health center reauthorization we must demonstrate unanimous support of our reauthorization in the House while simultaneously generating pressure for movement and confirmation of support in the Senate.