**Talking Points for Advocates - November 2017**

**Conversations with Senators on CHC Funding Cliff**

**Set up**

* We are calling today because due to Congressional inaction, every Health Center in America now faces a funding cliff.
* The Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) expired on October 1. This fund accounts for 70% of all federal grant funding for Health Centers.
* The prospect of these drastic cuts, which will go into effect at the beginning of our next budget period unless Congress acts, is already disrupting operations.
* We cannot afford the uncertainty that the failure to extend these funds has created. We need predictable funding to be able to recruit providers, secure bank loans, and plan.
* We know you are a supporter of Health Centers and we need your help to get this done.
* The House has already voted to fix the Cliff and now it’s the Senate’s turn to Act.

**Impact**

* Nationally, HHS estimates that a failure to extend the CHCF will lead to the closure of some 2,800 Health Center locations, elimination of more than 50,000 jobs, and most importantly, a loss of access to care for some 9 million patients.
* At our health center, I can tell you that if no fix is put in place, the impact will be:

o Estimated closures of sites, loss of patient access, jobs

o Also provide as much detail as possible here about what has already occurred.

o Use the Funding Cliff Impact Estimator tool on NACHC’s [Make the Case p](http://www.hcadvocacy.org/makethecase)age to help

* This level of impact doesn’t only hurt us – it will end up hurting our entire community, our local economy and driving up the cost of health care as more patients turn to the emergency room for health care.

**What are we asking?**

* We are asking that the Senate act NOW to extend the Health Centers Fund on a long-term basis with  ***at least current funding levels*** in place.
* Having certainty NOW is critical to our ability to plan, to recruit, and to continue offering care to our community without disruption.
* The House has already voted on legislation to fix the Cliff with support from both parties.
* To build on this work and demonstrate your support for a long-term fix to the CHC cliff, please cosponsor S. 1899, the **Community Health Investment, Modernization and Excellence (CHIME) Act**.
* The CHIME Act extends the CHC Fund for 5 years.
* In addition, I’m asking that you personally make clear to Senate leadership that this is a priority for you, and take a *public* action (press release, floor speech, social media, etc.) to demonstrate that support.
* Time has run out! Please let me know, as a supporter of health centers, what

action you are prepared to take to fix the Cliff, and when I can follow up.