



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **AAPCHO Responds to House Medicare Proposal**

*Statement by Jeffrey B. Caballero, executive director of AAPCHO*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., March 24, 2015** – “There are two primary policy priorities at the heart of AAPCHO’s current efforts: preventing the Primary Care Funding Cliff and extending funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This morning, congressional leadership released bipartisan legislation that would accomplish these two central priorities within a Medicare payment adjustment deal. We are glad that Congress has taken steps to put our kids and our most vulnerable first. The fix of the Primary Care Funding Cliff ensures that Community Health Centers, which form the safety net of care in the United States, are able to continue to provide essential services to medically underserved communities.

Additionally, we are heartened by the bi-partisan support Congress has shown for CHIP, which provides millions of low- and moderate- income children with affordable and comprehensive health coverage. For our Asian American & Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (AA&NHPI) communities, this is essential—according to data from Kaiser, more than 25 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander children rely on CHIP or Medicaid. To best serve our communities and to provide stable long-term funding for this critical program, we support the 4-year funding extension of CHIP.

We believe it is critical that Congress move these important programs forward. Congress must not jeopardize the bi-partisan support for these consensus programs by introducing a “poison pill” or amendment designed to poison a whole bill. They must not play politics while children's lives are at stake. Our AA&NHPI community and our providers acutely understand what restrictions on health access look like, be it centered around language, country of origin, ethnic background or gendered issues, and we are concerned about any restrictions on needed health services.

AAPCHO will continue to educate Congress on the importance of health center and CHIP funding, and will be monitoring issues that restrict access to needed services. We thank our members and partners for their fierce advocacy on behalf of our communities, and we will be keeping up the fight here in D.C.”

### **About AAPCHO**

AAPCHO is a national association of 35 community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration, and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islanders in the United States. For more information on AAPCHO and its Guiding Principles and Values, please visit [www.aapcho.org](http://www.aapcho.org).

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