



The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Finance Committee
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Finance Committee
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
Chairman
Finance Committee
Health Care Subcommittee
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Finance Committee
Health Care Subcommittee
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 13th, 2017

Dear Chairmen Hatch and Toomey and Ranking Members Wyden and Stabenow,

I am writing today on behalf of the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO). AAPCHO is a national not-for-profit association of 32 community based health care organizations, 27 of which are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). AAPCHO members are dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration, and leadership to improve the health status and access of medically underserved Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AA&NHPs) in the U.S., its territories, and its freely associated states. We strongly support the health center program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and call on Congress to take immediate action to ensure that these critical programs are fully funded to ensure that children, families and all patients have access to the care and coverage they need.

Fund Community Health Centers

The health center program is essential to providing safety-net care regardless of ability to pay, and health centers serve disproportionately low-income, rural and ethnic minority patients. Health centers disproportionately serve those with costly chronic conditions and are able to lower preventable emergency room use by implementing care plans that are preventive, local and community supported. By providing community-based delivery sites with an emphasis on meeting patient needs, health centers are able to provide better care at a lower cost, saving the healthcare system over \$24 billion annually. AAPCHO's member centers provide care to over half a million patients a year, including AA&NHPs many of whom have limited English proficiency. Our members provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care within the health center model and are a critically important source of care in the community and for low-income AA&NHP populations. The health center system is essential to meet the needs of over 23 million patients across the country, and we urge Congress to take action to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff.

Ensure Funding for Children's Health Insurance Program

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a core source of coverage for a significant number of AAPCHO member center patients. CHIP plays a huge role in covering millions of children, ensuring that they are able to get the health care services they need to grow and thrive. Stable and affordable health insurance coverage is important for all families- including the 25% of AANHPIs who rely on CHIP/Medicaid for their children's health care needs. Congress must act quickly to fund CHIP so that no child loses access to health insurance

We appreciate the efforts to ensure our healthcare system is strong, stable and benefits all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Caballero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey Caballero, MPH
Executive Director