

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK 2025

LETTER TO THE EDITOR [TEMPLATE]

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are the backbone of our nation’s primary healthcare system. They provide high-quality, comprehensive, and integrated primary care based on what services communities need most – ensuring access to affordable, quality healthcare for nearly 34 million people. In addition to creating jobs and saving lives, they [save the U.S. healthcare system money](https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/cbo-score-bipartisan-primary-care-and-health-workforce-act-recognizes-value-primary) by preventing illness and helping patients avoid costly hospital visits.

Health centers are not ordinary medical clinics; they are problem-solvers that reach beyond the walls of the exam room to not only prevent illness but also address the factors that may cause it. Health centers care for everyone, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. During hurricanes, floods, fires, pandemics, and job loss, health centers are the first responders to disasters and essential to keeping America healthy. [DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE SERVICES AT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH CENTER.]

CHCs are racing against a September deadline as our federal funding expires, creating unprecedented financial strain. The recently enacted "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" is also projected to cost CHCs $7 billion annually in higher uncompensated care costs and jeopardize coverage for 4 million patients. While CHCs never turn patients away, anticipated Medicaid coverage reductions will force impossible budget choices. The National Association of Community Health Centers projects these combined pressures could lead to workforce cuts and site closures, resulting in up to 6,000 preventable CHC patient deaths annually.

It is important to the health of [INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY] and the health of our nation that Congress fund health centers so people have access to affordable primary care. [IF APPROPRIATE THANK YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL HEALTH CENTER.]

As part of National Health Center Week 2025 (August 3-9), we invite you to support a health center in your neighborhood and celebrate its mission and accomplishments. You can learn more about NHCW and view a listing of events at [www.healthcenterweek.org](http://www.healthcenterweek.org/)