

**NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK 2025 OP-ED [TEMPLATE]**

This August 3-9, as communities celebrate [National Health Center Week 2025,](http://www.healthcenterweek.org) elected officials will unite behind a rare bipartisan success story. The nation's 1,500 Community Health Centers (CHCs) prove that effective healthcare policy can transcend political divisions—delivering essential care to underserved communities while reducing system-wide costs.

For decades, bipartisan members of Congress have supported health centers because the results speak for themselves. Health centers demonstrate that when we focus on what works, we can build programs that truly serve the public good.

Health centers provide high quality, comprehensive, and integrated preventive and primary care services to nearly 34 million people. Our patient-directed model of care is tailored to the unique needs of each community. Together, we are the backbone of the nation’s primary care system, [saving the healthcare system money](https://www.nachc.org/resource/americas-health-centers-by-the-numbers) by reducing chronic disease and costly hospital visits.

At [NAME OF YOUR HEALTH CENTER] we provide [DESCRIBE IN DETAIL YOUR SERVICES]. Health centers are not just healers; we are innovators who look beyond medical charts to prevent illness and address the factors that may cause poor health, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, access to nutritious food, and unemployment.

CHCs are racing against a September deadline as our federal funding is set to expire, creating unprecedented financial strain. Additionally, the recently enacted "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" is 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 (NACHC) projects these combined pressures could lead to workforce cuts and site closures, resulting in up to 6,000 preventable health center patient deaths annually.

We are an essential part of the U.S. healthcare system and collaborate with hospitals, local and state governments, social, health, and business organizations to improve outcomes and reduce costs. For 60 years, health centers have been dedicated to making quality and affordable healthcare available to everyone in their communities, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

The health center mission is crucial today because access to care remains a [challenge to over 100 million people](https://www.nachc.org/resource/closing-the-primary-care-gap-how-community-health-centers-can-address-the-nations-primary-care-crisis/) across the country. Many people live in remote areas and communities where there is a shortage of providers and, in many cases, the nearest doctor or hospital can be as far as a 50-mile drive in another county. [DESCRIBE ACCESS TO CARE AND CHALLENGES IN YOUR STATE OR COMMUNITY]

Long-term, stable funding for health centers will ensure we can keep our doors open. I am grateful that Representatives/Senators [NAME OF YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS] have shown leadership in supporting/sponsoring legislation that will protect health centers from losing a major part of our funding.

Show your commitment during National Health Center Week by supporting a health center in your community. We will be there when you need us.