



March 19, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone,

On behalf of America's Community Health Centers and the 30 million patients they serve, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your leadership in acknowledging the role Health Centers play in the nation's health care system. With over 1,400 Community Health Centers nationwide providing care at more than 14,000 locations in every state and U.S. Territory, we have a proven track record of providing trusted, high-quality care and reducing health disparities. This has continued over the past year, as health centers have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to your continued support, the Committee's introduction of this forward-thinking legislation, the Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's America (LIFT) Act, will provide critical infrastructure funding for health centers. This bill will preserve, strengthen, and expand health centers. It will support our ability to protect the health of communities, meet the escalating demands for urgently needed health services, and serve millions of additional patients into the future.

NACHC fully supports the Committee's LIFT Act provisions, including, but not limited to:

- \$10 billion in funding for community health center capital project grants for the construction and modernization of community health centers;
- \$500 million for a program to award grants to qualified teaching health centers and behavioral health care centers to support the improvement, renovation, or modernization of infrastructure at such centers;
- \$80 billion for the deployment of secure and resilient high-speed broadband to expand access nationwide; and
- \$9.3 billion for broadband affordability and adoption to ensure that everyone can afford internet service and have the knowledge and tools to use the internet in ways that meet their needs.

This funding will address the long-standing infrastructure needs of health centers that were put on hold and exacerbated by this pandemic. Such needs include affordable broadband deployment to rural and hard to reach populations, critical upgrades to IT systems, modernizing aging facilities, capital projects to open new sites, and expanding capacity to provide mental health and dental services, especially when demand for these services has recently exploded.

Federally Qualified Community Health Centers are the backbone of our country's primary health care system and have long earned strong bipartisan support, and we are extremely grateful for your continuous commitment to the Health Center model of care. As the LIFT Act moves through the Committee and eventually to the floor of the House, we welcome continued dialogue to ensure the Community Health Center Program retains the full support of your colleagues.

Chairman Pallone, thank you again for your trust and investment in our patients, programs, and communities. If you need any additional information, please contact Pauline Jamry, NACHC's Director of Federal Affairs, at [pjamry@nachc.org](mailto:pjamry@nachc.org) or (703) 216-7796.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Van Coverden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Van Coverden  
President & CEO

CC: Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee