



North Carolina Community Health Center Association

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September 13, 2022

The Honorable Richard Hudson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Hudson,

On behalf of North Carolina's 43 Community Health Centers and the nearly 750,000 patients they serve across over 400 clinical locations, the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) thanks you for your longstanding support of Federally Qualified Health Centers and the communities they serve. We also thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Maximizing Outcomes through Better Investments in Lifesaving Equipment (MOBILE) for Health Care Act (HR 5141), which will increase health care access in rural and underserved communities.

We write today in strong support of the MOBILE Health Care Act. This bipartisan legislation would authorize mobile units as part of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) New Access Point (NAP) grant authority for the health center program, providing health centers more flexibility in how they deliver care to their patients and promoting additional mobile units to increase access to care in medically underserved communities throughout North Carolina and across the country.

As patient-governed community health care organizations, North Carolina's Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide whole-person primary medical care, as well as integrated services such as dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, substance use disorder treatment, and enabling services. By mission and statute, community health centers provide care in medically underserved communities and to medically underserved populations without regard to patients' insurance status or ability to pay. By enabling access to comprehensive primary care services and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits, CHCs save taxpayer dollars and reduce health care costs.

While the bulk of services CHCs provide are in brick-and-mortar locations, 18 of North Carolina's CHCs currently operate 38 mobile units to extend the reach of their health care services to North Carolinians in need. These mobile units allow CHCs to provide affordable services to communities that otherwise lack such access, such as patients who do not have accessible permanent health center sites in their communities.

Additionally, our health centers have frequently engaged their mobile units to reach special populations who may have difficulty accessing care at a permanent location, such as seasonal agricultural workers, people experiencing homelessness, and K-12 students in school-based settings. Mobile units have also been integral to CHCs' COVID-19 response, as health centers utilized mobile units to conduct

community-based COVID-19 testing and vaccination events throughout the state to reach otherwise underserved populations.

The MOBILE Health Care Act will facilitate strategic deployment of additional mobile health care units that enable Community Health Centers to expand access to care for communities in need. We thank you again for your leadership and your support of this important legislation and we look forward to working with you to advance this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Riley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brendan Riley
Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs
North Carolina Community Health Center Association