

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 23, 2017

Chairman Michael Burgess  
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Ranking Member Gene Green  
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Green:

We write to you today in support of the community health center (CHC) program and thank you for conducting a timely hearing on extending health center funding.

As you are aware, health center funding will decrease nearly 70% starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 if we do not act to extend their "Section 330" funding. At the hearing, you will hear from a fellow Minnesotan, Mr. Michael Holmes, who has been invited by the Subcommittee to testify on the "primary care cliff" health centers face. Mr. Holmes is CEO of Scenic Rivers Health Services based in Cook, Minnesota. He leads an organization tasked with caring for over 12,000 patients at a number of medical and dental clinics located throughout rural northern Minnesota.

In our conversations with Minnesota's health centers, they have shared with us that if we do not address this funding cliff by October 1<sup>st</sup>, the State's 17 CHCs serving 181,000 low-income Minnesotans will lose nearly \$27 million of their overall revenue. Individual health centers would see an average drop of 15% in funding. Such a decrease would cause CHCs in Minnesota and other health centers in the United States to dramatically scale back services, if not close sites altogether. Ultimately, this loss of revenue jeopardizes access to primary care services for low-income Minnesotans across the state – not only in rural areas such as Cook, but also in the Twin Cities Metro, where residents face challenges accessing primary care services.

In short, by extending Section 330 funding, health centers will be able to continue their mission of providing primary care while saving precious state and federal resources. We ask that you act favorably on this important issue of health center funding and the "primary care cliff."

Sincerely,



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



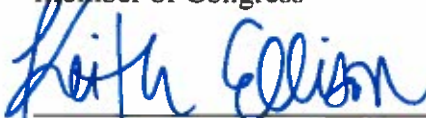
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
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Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



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Jason Lewis  
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Erik Paulsen  
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