

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

October 2, 2006

Dear Chairman Lewis, Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to commend you for your long standing support of the federal Health Centers program, and to request that in conference negotiations on the final Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2007, you adopt the House Committee-passed funding increase of \$206 million for this vital program.


Under your leadership, significant progress has been made toward the President's goal of 1,200 new or expanded health centers. However, the problem of access to primary and preventive care remains a pervasive one across the United States. Approximately 36 million Americans are still without access to a primary care physician or a regular source of care. With \$181 million in new funding for expansion in FY07, we can bring high-quality primary health care services to nearly a million and a half new patients at more than 300 new or expanded sites, completing the first Health Center expansion initiative and laying the groundwork for future growth.

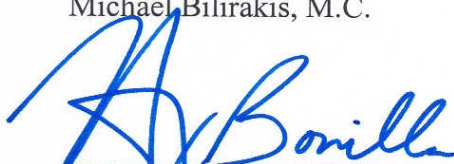
Further, we are encouraged that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have designated \$25 million in base grant adjustments for existing health centers in FY2007. Funding these adjustments will allow existing providers to keep pace with rising costs and rising numbers of uninsured patients in the communities they serve. Unfortunately, while overall funding for the Health Centers program was increased, last year virtually all existing health center grantees received a cut in their annual grant funding as a result of the one percent rescission, restricting their ability to provide care to the underserved. We strongly urge you to include the full \$25 million in base grant adjustments in any final package to stabilize these important providers in the year ahead.

We are grateful for your leadership on the expansion of the Health Centers program to date, and for your consideration of this matter when you meet with your Senate colleagues to finalize funding levels for FY 2007.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Bilirakis, M.C.

  
Michael Capuano, M.C.

  
Henry Bonilla, M.C.

  
Danny Davis, M.C.

*Mark Foley*  
Mark Foley, M.C.

*Rob Simmons*  
Robert Simmons, M.C.

*Carolyn McCarthy*  
Carolyn McCarthy, M.C.

*Tim Ryan*  
Tim Ryan, M.C.

*Rick Larsen*  
Rick Larsen, M.C.

*Frank LoBiondo*  
Frank LoBiondo, M.C.

*James Langevin*  
James Langevin, M.C.

*John Barrow*  
John Barrow, M.C.

*Ed Case*  
Ed Case, M.C.

*Adam Smith*  
Adam Smith, M.C.

*John Tierney*  
John Tierney, M.C.

*Mike Thompson*  
Mike Thompson, M.C.

*Wm. Lacy Clay*  
Wm. Lacy Clay, M.C.

*Fortney Stark*  
Fortney Stark, M.C.

*Lloyd Doggett*  
Lloyd Doggett, M.C.

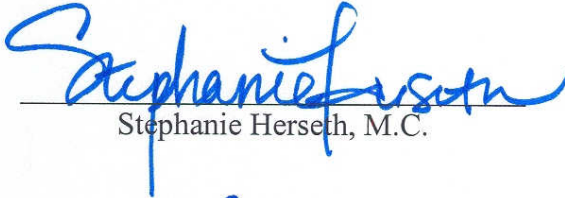
*Joseph Crowley*  
Joseph Crowley, M.C.

*Artur Davis*  
Artur Davis, M.C.

*Stephen Lynch*  
Stephen Lynch, M.C.

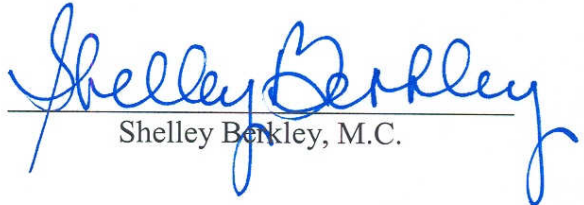
  
Timothy Murphy, M.C.

  
Dennis Cardoza, M.C.

  
Stephanie Herseht, M.C.

  
Michael Michaud, M.C.

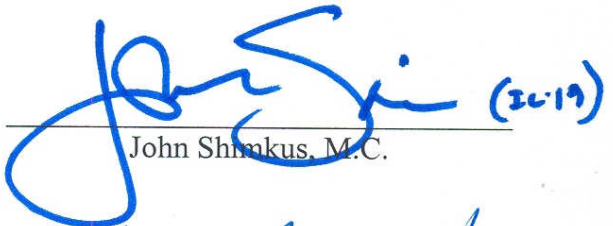
  
Ted Strickland, M.C.

  
Shelley Berkley, M.C.

  
John Lewis, M.C.

  
Melissa Bear, M.C.

  
David Scott, M.C.

  
John Shimkus, M.C. (2019)

  
Frank Pallone, M.C.

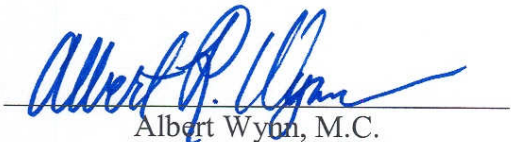
  
Jim Marshall, M.C.

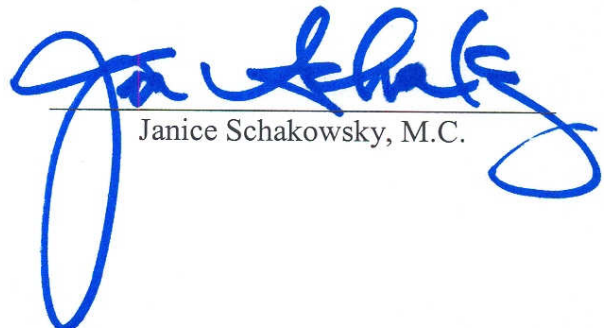
  
James McGovern, M.C.


  
John Larson, M.C.

  
Brian Higgins, M.C.

  
Devin Nunes, M.C.

  
Albert Wynn, M.C.

  
Janice Schakowsky, M.C.

  
Betty McCollum, M.C.

  
Dan Lipinski, M.C.

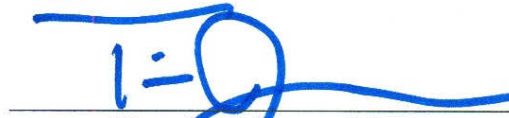
  
Todd Platts, M.C.

  
Jeb Bradley, M.C.

  
Ellen Tauscher, M.C.


  
Jim Matheson, M.C.


  
Jim McDermott, M.C.


  
Timothy Johnson, M.C.

  
Anthony Weiner, M.C.


  
Vito Fossella, M.C.


  
Christopher Shays, M.C.


  
Rahm Emanuel, M.C.

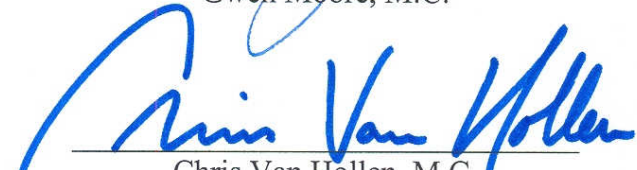
  
Thomas Allen, M.C.

  
Doc Hastings, M.C.

  
William Jenkins, M.C.

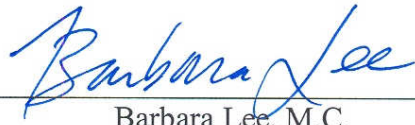
  
Gwen Moore, M.C.

  
Thelma Drake, M.C.

  
Chris Van Hollen, M.C.



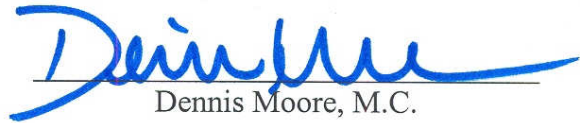
Brian Baird, M.C.



Barbara Lee, M.C.



Raul Grijalva, M.C.



Dennis Moore, M.C.



Neil Abercrombie, M.C.



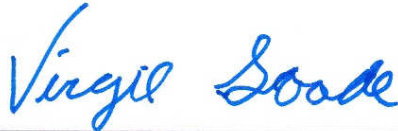
Dale Kildee, M.C.



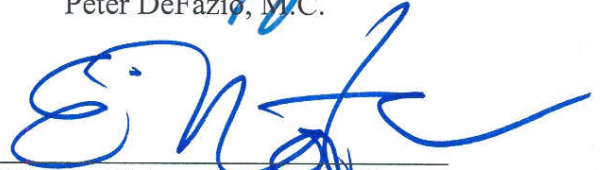
Eddie Bernice Johnson, M.C.



Peter DeFazio, M.C.



Virgil Goode, M.C.



Eleanor Holmes Norton, M.C.



Lee Terry, M.C.



Jim Leach, M.C.



John Salazar, M.C.



Henry Waxman, M.C.



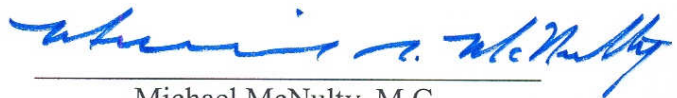
Emanuel Cleaver, M.C.



Benjamin Cardin, M.C.



Vernon Ehlers, M.C.



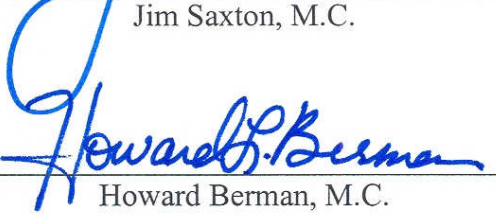
Michael McNulty, M.C.



Jim Saxton, M.C.



Richard Neal, M.C.



Howard Berman, M.C.



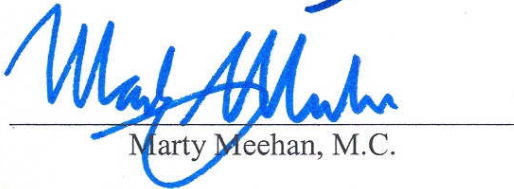
Major Owens, M.C.



Donald Manzullo, M.C.



Carolyn Maloney, M.C.



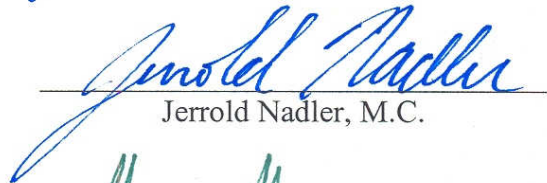
Marty Meehan, M.C.



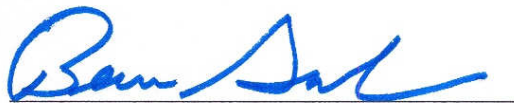
John McHugh, M.C.



Edolphus Towns, M.C.



Jerrold Nadler, M.C.



Bernard Sanders, M.C.



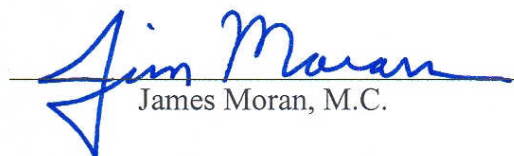
Gene Green, M.C.




Elijah Cummings, M.C.



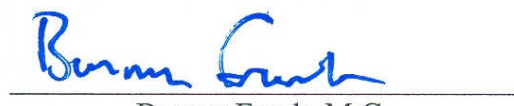
Frank Lucas, M.C.



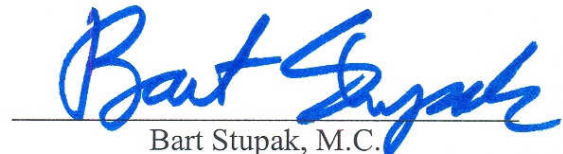
James Moran, M.C.



Thomas Davis, M.C.



Barney Frank, M.C.



Bart Stupak, M.C.

*Alice Hastings*

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*Sheila Jackson Lee*

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*Charles Rangel*

Charles Rangel, M.C.

*Mike McIntyre*

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*Luis V. Gutierrez*

Luis Gutierrez, M.C.

*Charlie Norwood*

Charles Norwood, M.C.

*Joel Hefley*

Joel Hefley, M.C.

*Bill Delahunt*

William Delahunt, M.C.

*Chris Smith*

Christopher Smith, M.C.

*Bill Pascrell Jr.*

Bill Pascrell, M.C.

*Charles Bass*

Charles Bass, M.C.

*Norm Dicks*

Norman Dicks, M.C.

*Darlene Hooley*

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*Louise McIntosh Slaughter*


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*Maurice Hinchey*

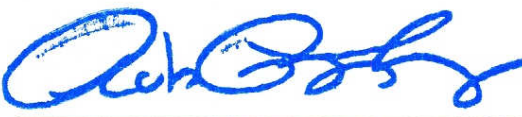
Maurice Hinchey, M.C.

*Bennie Thompson*

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Jerry Weller, M.C.

  
Sue Kelly, M.C.

  
Rob Bishop, M.C.

  
Bob Goodlatte, M.C.

  
Joe Schwarz, M.C.

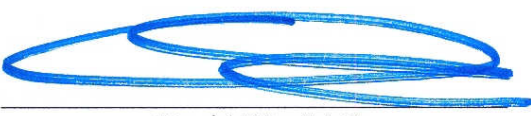
  
Wally Herget, M.C.

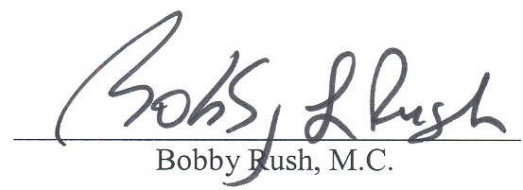
  
Rush Holt, M.C.

  
Jerry Costello, M.C.

  
Tammy Baldwin, M.C.


  
Doris Matsui, M.C.

  
David Wu, M.C.

  
Bobby Rush, M.C.

  
E. Clay Shaw, M.C.

  
Chris Cannon, M.C.

  
Geoff Davis, M.C.

  
Jerry Moran, M.C.

  
Dennis Kucinich, M.C.

  
Earl Blumenauer, M.C.



Kendrick B. Meek

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Dan Boren

Dan Boren, M.C.

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah, M.C.

Steve Pearce

Steve Pearce, M.C.

Mark Udall

Mark Udall, M.C.

Michael Oxley

Michael Oxley, M.C.

Don Young

Don Young, M.C.

Heather Wilson

Heather Wilson, M.C.

Earl Pomeroy

Earl Pomeroy, M.C.

Michael Fitzpatrick

Michael Fitzpatrick, M.C.

Jim Cooper

Jim Cooper, M.C.

James Oberstar

James Oberstar, M.C.

Dave Reichert

Dave Reichert, M.C.

Brad Miller

Brad Miller, M.C.

*Leonard L. Boswell*

Leonard Boswell, M.C.

*Charlie Melancon*

Charlie Melancon, M.C.

*Harold Ford*

Harold Ford, M.C.

*Bob Filner*

Bob Filner, M.C.

*Phil English*

Phil English, M.C.

*Diana DeGette*

Diana DeGette, M.C.

*Bart Gordon*

Bart Gordon, M.C.