

CLEVELAND
Community
HEALTH
Center Network

Representing the three
Federally Qualified
Health Centers
serving Cleveland, Ohio



Care Alliance Health Center
1530 St. Clair Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216) 781-6228
www.carealliance.org



Neighborhood Family Practice
3569 Ridge Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44102
(216) 281-0872
www.nfpmedcenter.org



Northeast Ohio Neighborhood
Health Services, Inc.
8300 Hough Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
(216) 231-7700

Stand up for the Health of Northeast Ohioans!

Help Preserve Community Health Center Funding

Dear Senator Portman:

I am writing to ask you to please **hold Community Health Center harmless and protect patients and families** from painful federal cuts to primary and preventive care.

While I understand there is great pressure to fix the nation's fiscal problems, cutting health care programs, such as **Community Health Centers, which reduce overall costs in our health care system and keep people healthier**, actually will increase costs for all taxpayers.

Every year, Community Health Centers provide primary and preventive care to more than 23 million Americans, including more than 500,000 Ohioans. Even while they provide more comprehensive services than other primary health care settings, Community Health Centers **save more than \$1,200 per patient annually**. Community Health Centers also save the Medicaid program around 30% in annual spending for Health Center Medicaid patients. For example, in Ohio, health centers serve 10% of Medicaid beneficiaries at a cost of only 0.6% of state Medicaid expenditures.

I hope that you will also consider that our **Community Health Centers provide critical primary and preventive care for Ohio's uninsured**. According to the Ohio Family Health Survey, more than 300,000 working-age adults were added to the ranks of Ohio's uninsured in the past five years. Deep cuts to CHC funding will severely harm their ability to provide care for our state's uninsured populations.

Not only would funding cuts to health centers have significant repercussions on a national and state level, they would also negatively impact Cleveland's economic health and increase taxpayers' burden of caring for the uninsured. **Cleveland's three Community Health Centers employ more than 350 people and serve more than 64,000 residents, 45% of whom are uninsured**. Cuts to health center funding could mean job loss for health center employees and reduced capacity to care for patients – with nowhere else to go, these patients would likely seek expensive care in ER settings.

As Congress deals with balancing the federal budget through the FY 2012 appropriations process or in the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, I write as a voter who would personally be harmed by cuts to Community Health Center funding. For my sake, for the sake of my community and for the sake of our country's wellbeing, do not let those cuts take place. Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A supporter of Cleveland's community health centers

(circle one) Care Alliance Health Center Neighborhood Family Practice NEON Health Services

Name (Print)

Home Address

City, State & ZIP Code

I am a Health Center (circle all that apply):

Patient

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Staff member

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