

Louisiana Primary Care Association, Inc.
503 Colonial Drive
Post Office Box 966
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0966



For more information, contact:

Ryan Sinitiere
Marketing & Communications Project Manager
(225) 927-7662, ext. 210
rsinitiere@lpca.net

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LPCA Executive Director Releases Statement on Health Center Funding Reauthorization

Today, more than 444,000 Community Health Center patients across Louisiana are breathing a sigh of relief. The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress and signed by the President will fund the federal government for the next two months and avoid a government shutdown. This budget deal includes discretionary funding for the Health Center Program, the National Health Service Corps, and other important programs that millions of Americans depend on.

We thank Louisiana's Congressional delegation for supporting Louisiana's Community Health Centers and the patients that depend on them for care. We are proud to have strong relationships with our Members of Congress and we look forward to continued partnership and collaboration.

We are glad to have avoided an immediate disruption in funding, but we are nowhere near the finish line. Let me be clear: piecemeal, short-term funding is not sufficient.

Like any other small business, Community Health Centers require a predictable financial environment in order to keep the lights on, hire employees, and plan for the future. Month to month financing and temporary Band-Aids will only lead to increased unpredictability, destabilizing Louisiana's healthcare safety-net.

By emphasizing preventive care and keeping patients out of the emergency room, health centers save Louisiana's Medicaid program nearly \$600 million a year. Health centers provide the highest quality of patient care at 24% lower costs than other private providers. Louisiana's Community Health Centers improve the health of citizens, work to address social determinants of health, and spur local economies all while saving taxpayer money – this is a return on investment that any business executive would be proud of.

Even as we celebrate today's small victory, we urge Congress to commit to a long-term, five year health center funding extension. Time and time again, health centers have proven their tremendous value. We have fulfilled our commitment – it's time for Congress to fulfill theirs.

Gerrelda Davis
Executive Director
Louisiana Primary Care Association

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About the Louisiana Primary Care Association

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) represents 34 federally funded, private, non-profit and public Community Health Centers (and 2 Look-Alikes) across Louisiana that serve over 426,000 patients annually. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, and collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to ensure that every Louisianan has access to affordable, quality, primary care services. For more information, visit www.LPCA.net.