



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell,

The undersigned members of the Wisconsin State Legislature are joined by the Wisconsin EMS Association in writing to support the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation's request to include robust funding for Community Health Centers (CHCs) in the next COVID-19 package. Health Centers need immediate investments that will help to sustain their operations during this crisis and stable, long-term reauthorization of Health Center funding.

States across the country are facing sudden drops in tax revenue and federal aid is needed in order to provide health care for the newly uninsured, the newly Medicaid eligible, and to provide payments to health providers. Health Centers in Wisconsin and across the nation are feeling the effects of falling revenues even as they remain on the frontlines of the coronavirus epidemic. Projections indicate Wisconsin CHCs will lose between \$85 million to \$205 million in revenue. Without additional action and support, CHCs will not be able to continue operations.

Community Health Centers across the nation have estimated that they need at least \$7.6 billion in emergency funding to reemploy staff, maintain services, and expand outreach in response to COVID-19.

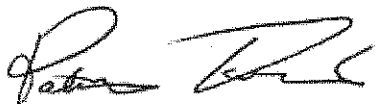
Health Centers are doing all that they can to mitigate these losses, meet the needs of their patients, and keep everyone safe in the process. Wisconsin CHCs have made significant operational changes in response to COVID-19. These changes include expanded testing capacity, telehealth visits, and triaging patients. All 17 Health Centers now offer virtual visits to their patients. Maintaining funding support for virtual visits from Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurers is as critical to Health Centers' viability as additional funding.

To continue providing the highest quality care to all in need, Health Centers need their long-term funding addressed. Health Centers have requested an immediate guaranteed funding extension for five years, at a minimum of \$69.7 billion. While Health Centers fight to keep their doors open to serve the most vulnerable of patients, all of this effort is futile if a solution to long-term funding is not reached. Several long-term proposals have been introduced in both chambers to provide a solid funding stream to support

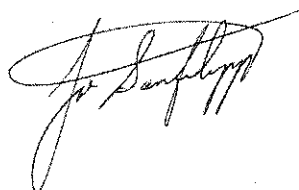
more patients and respond to community needs. A long-term funding solution must be included in the next coronavirus package to help as Wisconsin transitions from crisis response to long-term recovery.

Now is not the time for Health Centers to worry about how to stay open or worry about their ability to reopen. They are an integral part of our health care system and are critical in combatting the current pandemic. We encourage you to adequately fund Health Centers in the next COVID-19 response legislation.

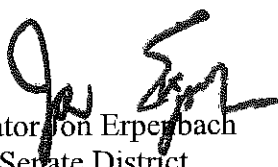
Sincerely,



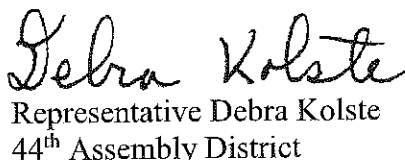
Senator Patrick Testin  
24<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Representative Joe Sanfelippo  
15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Senator Jon Erpenbach  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Representative Debra Kolste  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Senator Robert Cowles  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



Senator Tim Carpenter  
3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Senator Lena Taylor  
4<sup>th</sup> Senate District

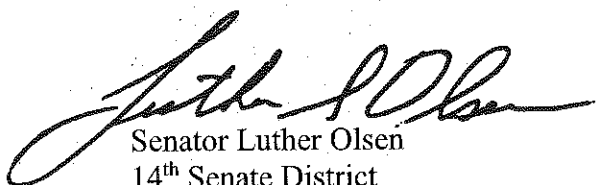


Senator LaTonya Johnson  
6<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Senator Alberta Darling  
8<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Patty Schachtner  
10<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Luther Olsen  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



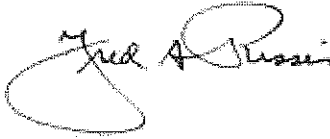
Senator Janis Ringhand  
15<sup>th</sup> Senate District



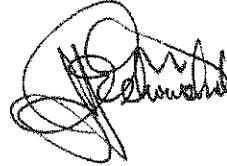
Senator Van Wanggaard  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District



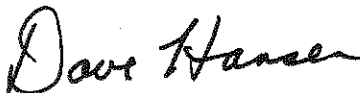
Senator Kathleen Bernier  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District




Senator Fred Risser  
26<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Jerry Petrowski  
29<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Dave Hansen  
30<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Representative Ron Tusler  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

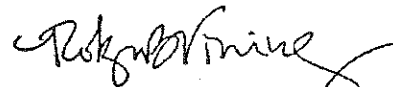


Representative David Steffen  
4<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



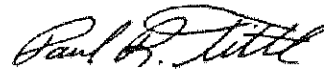
Representative Jim Steineke  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Daniel Riemer  
7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

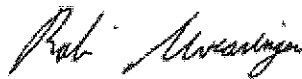


Representative Robyn Vining  
14<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

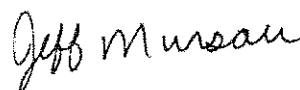
Representative Christine Sinicki  
20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



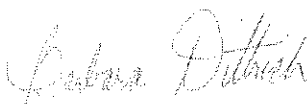
Representative Paul Tittel  
25<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Rob Swearingen  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



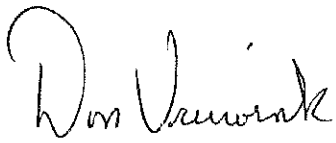
Representative Jeffrey Mursau  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Barbara Dittrich  
38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Joan Ballweg  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Representative Don Vruwink  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Representative Gary Hebl  
46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Melissa Sargent  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Tony Kurtz  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Mike Rohrkaste  
55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

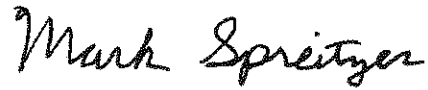
Representative Greta Neubauer  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Todd Novak  
51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



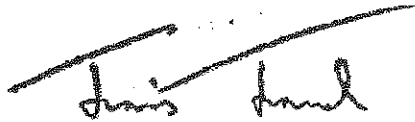
Representative Katrina Shankland  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



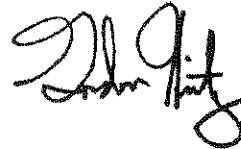
Representative Mark Spreitzer  
45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Jimmy Anderson  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Travis Tranel  
49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Gordon Hintz  
54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Amanda Stuck  
57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Jesse James  
68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District


Representative Rick Gundrum  
58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Scott Krug  
72<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



Representative Nick Milroy  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Representative Chris Taylor  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Dianne Hesselbein  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Dave Considine  
81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

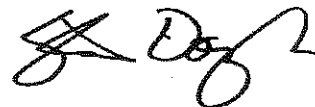


Representative John Spiros  
86<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Jodi Emerson  
91<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Representative Treig Pronschinske  
92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



Representative Steve Doyle  
94<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Representative Jill Billings  
95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

The Wisconsin EMS Association