



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.

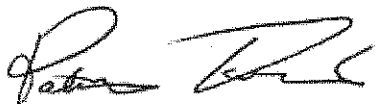
Health Centers are doing all that they can to mitigate these losses, meet the needs of their patients, and keep everyone safe in the process. Wisconsin CHCs have made significant operational changes in response to COVID-19. These changes include expanded testing capacity, telehealth visits, and triaging 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

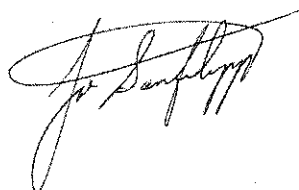
more patients and respond to community needs. A long-term funding solution must be included in the next coronavirus package to help as Wisconsin transitions from crisis response to long-term recovery.

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.

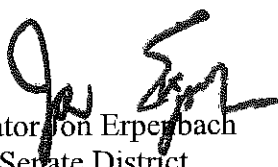
Sincerely,



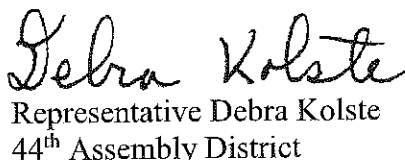
Senator Patrick Testin
24th Senate District



Representative Joe Sanfelippo
15th Assembly District



Senator Jon Erpenbach
27th Senate District



Representative Debra Kolste
44th Assembly District



Senator Robert Cowles
2nd Senate District



Senator Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District

Senator Lena Taylor
4th Senate District

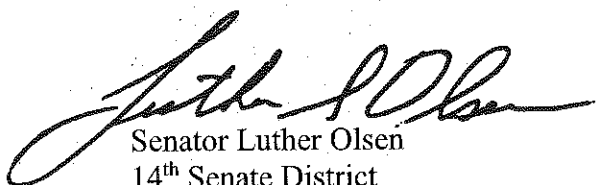


Senator LaTonya Johnson
6th Senate District

Senator Alberta Darling
8th Senate District



Senator Patty Schachtner
10th Senate District



Senator Luther Olsen
14th Senate District



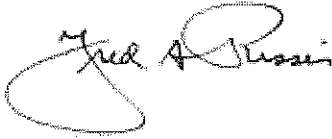
Senator Janis Ringhand
15th Senate District



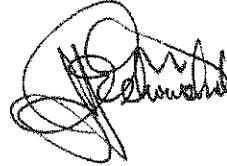
Senator Van Wanggaard
21st Senate District



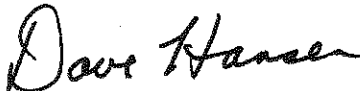
Senator Kathleen Bernier
23rd Senate District



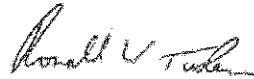
Senator Fred Risser
26th Senate District



Senator Jerry Petrowski
29th Senate District



Senator Dave Hansen
30th Senate District



Representative Ron Tusler
3rd Assembly District

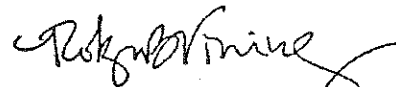


Representative David Steffen
4th Assembly District



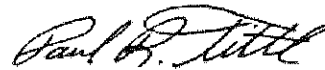
Representative Jim Steineke
5th Assembly District

Representative Daniel Riemer
7th Assembly District

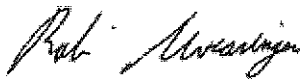


Representative Robyn Vining
14th Assembly District

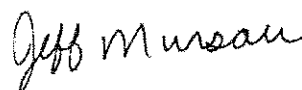
Representative Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District



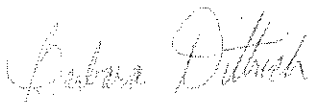
Representative Paul Tittel
25th Assembly District



Representative Rob Swearingen
34th Assembly District



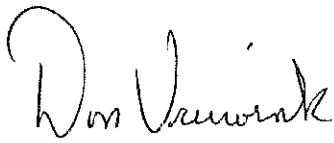
Representative Jeffrey Mursau
36th Assembly District



Representative Barbara Dittrich
38th Assembly District



Representative Joan Ballweg
41st Assembly District



Representative Don Vruwink
43rd Assembly District



Representative Gary Hebl
46th Assembly District



Representative Melissa Sargent
48th Assembly District

Representative Tony Kurtz
50th Assembly District



Representative Mike Rohrkaste
55th Assembly District

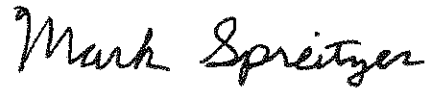
Representative Greta Neubauer
66th Assembly District



Representative Todd Novak
51st Assembly District



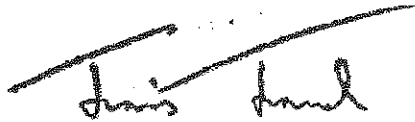
Representative Katrina Shankland
71st Assembly District



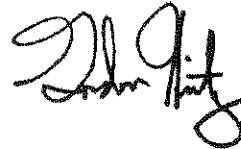
Representative Mark Spreitzer
45th Assembly District



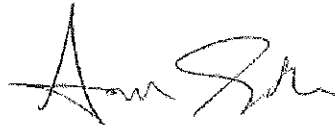
Representative Jimmy Anderson
47th Assembly District



Representative Travis Tranel
49th Assembly District



Representative Gordon Hintz
54th Assembly District



Representative Amanda Stuck
57th Assembly District



Representative Jesse James
68th Assembly District

Representative Rick Gundrum
58th Assembly District



Representative Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District



Representative Nick Milroy
73rd Assembly District

Representative Chris Taylor
76th Assembly District



Representative Dianne Hesselbein
79th Assembly District

Representative Dave Considine
81st Assembly District

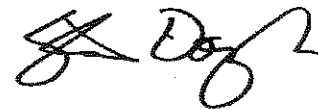


Representative John Spiros
86th Assembly District

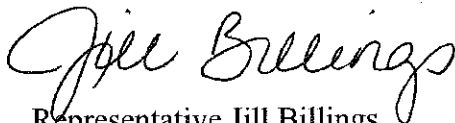


Representative Jodi Emerson
91st Assembly District

Representative Treig Pronschinske
92nd Assembly District



Representative Steve Doyle
94th Assembly District



Representative Jill Billings
95th Assembly District

The Wisconsin EMS Association