

NACHC RESPONSE/REACTION TO CONCERNS ON HEALTH CENTERS AND ABORTION

Since its creation 45 years ago, the Community Health Centers program has focused on bringing health care to millions of people in thousands of communities across the country that lack access to primary and preventive health care. This is especially true in low-income, un- and under-insured, and minority populations, and residents of rural and frontier communities with too few providers to serve them. With broad bipartisan support, health centers have essentially doubled the number of people they serve over the past decade under an initiative spearheaded by former President George W. Bush. The new health reform legislation's Community Health Center Fund will allow Health Centers to expand to serve nearly 15 million new patients in communities across the country that still lack adequate health resources.

Health Centers funded by Section 330 of the PHS Act (also called Federally-Qualified Health Centers, or FQHCs) do not provide abortions to any of their patients, and we are not aware of any that have ever done so. Health Centers will under all circumstances abide by the law as reaffirmed by the President's executive order.

The mission of Community Health Centers remains unchanged. We are the family doctor to 20 million men, women and children across America. Indeed, last year health centers provided prenatal, perinatal, and post-natal/post-partum care to 1 of every 8 children born in the U.S. We stand ready to be partners in rebuilding our health care system.