



## **LA's Non-Profit Clinics Laud the Passage of Health Care Reform** *Newly passed bill would provide coverage, access to the most needy*

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For Immediate Release

**Los Angeles, CA**—Community clinics and health centers across LA County lauded this weekend's historic passage of health care reform legislation by the US House of Representatives. The House vote (March 21st) sends H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to the President's desk for signature, and sends H.R. 4872, the Reconciliation Act of 2010, to the Senate for passage.

The health reform package advanced by the House will extend affordable health care coverage to 32 million Americans. In LA County, over 2 million individuals, a quarter of the non-elderly population, have no insurance coverage. LA's community clinics care for nearly a quarter of this population.

“With over 2 million of its 10 million residents without health insurance, LA County already has one of the highest rates of uninsured residents in the U.S.,” said Gloria Rodriguez, President and CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC). “Just the expansion of Medicaid alone will offer coverage to over half a million of those uninsured, and the additional health centers investments will ensure that the safety net will have the capacity to serve these newly insured. This is a welcome relief as clinics provide care for a skyrocketing number of patients during this difficult economic time.”

The bill emphasizes cost-effective primary health care and preventive care, begins to address payment reform, bends the cost curve and reduces the deficit. The improvements and investments in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act set the foundation for an American health care system that works for all.

LA's non-profit community clinics and health centers particularly appreciate the provisions in this bill that will positively impact clinics and those they serve. In addition to extending Medicaid expansion to the thousands of uninsured these clinics serve, the bill also preserves, strengthens and dramatically expands federal funding for the Community Health Center Program, a key component of the safety net.

Lack of health coverage has serious health consequences. The lack of preventive care, and delayed care often results in more serious illness requiring advanced treatment. Community clinics provide primary health care, including medical, dental, and mental health services, to the uninsured, underserved, working poor, high-risk and vulnerable populations. They serve all, regardless of ability to pay. LA's community clinics and health centers, where 63% of the patients are uninsured, are struggling to meet increases in demand for services due to the economic downturn and severe health and human services cuts from the state. Thus, we celebrate this historic achievement.

**H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:**

- ***Provides \$11 Billion for Health Center Program Expansion, (beginning in FY2011)***  
The health reform package contains a total of \$11 billion in *new* funding for the Health Centers program over five years. \$9.5 billion of this funding will allow health centers to expand their operational capacity to serve nearly 20 million new patients and to enhance their medical, oral, and behavioral health services. \$1.5 billion of this funding will allow health centers to begin to meet their extraordinary capital needs, by expanding and improving existing facilities and constructing new sites.
- ***Provides \$1.5 Billion for the National Health Service Corps***  
The health reform package also includes \$1.5 billion over five years for the National Health Service Corps, which will place an estimated 15,000 primary care providers in provider-short communities. The bill also makes programmatic improvements to the Corps.
- ***Funds new programs for health center-based residencies***  
Authorizes a new Title VII grant program for the development of residency programs at health centers and establishes a new Title III program that would provide payments to community-based entities that operate teaching programs. Directly appropriates \$230 million over 5 years for the Title III payments.
- ***Appropriates \$200 million over four years for school-based health centers.***  
The funds would be allocated in a competitive grant process for facilities, equipment and similar expenditures.
- ***Expands Medicaid eligibility to adults and children below 133% FPL (\$29,300 for family of 4) in 2014.***  
Provides additional federal assistance to states that have already expanded Medicaid eligibility above federal minimums through 2019. It provides a 100% federal match for states from 2014-16 for coverage of newly-eligible individuals, decreasing to 95% in 2017, 94% in 2018, 93% in 2019, and 90% thereafter.
  - UCLA Center for Health Policy Research projects Medi-Cal expansion will expand coverage to nearly 1.7 million uninsured Californians. This equates to a 25% increase in enrollment in the current Medi-Cal program, while doubling Medi-Cal managed care enrollment.
  - In LA County, 539,735 uninsured individuals will become eligible under the Medicaid expansion.
- Maintains current Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility and benefits levels with cost-sharing under current law until 2019; after 2014, CHIP-eligible children who are not able to enroll in CHIP due to enrollment caps would be eligible for tax credits in state exchanges.

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***THE COMMUNITY CLINIC ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CCALAC)*** is the largest regional association of community and free clinics in California. Founded in 1994, CCALAC has 42 members that operate more than 120 clinic sites throughout the county. These clinics accommodate nearly one million patients per year, the majority who are uninsured or underinsured. CCALAC is dedicated to serving and representing the interests of its member clinics as providers of quality health care, including medical, dental and pharmacy services.