



America's Frontline Physicians Urge Passage of the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*

Our organizations, which represent more than 560,000 physicians and medical students nationwide, are pleased that a bipartisan budget agreement has been reached. The *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*, once enacted into law, will reauthorize and fund numerous health care programs that are essential to providing health care to millions of people, especially those in rural and other underserved communities.

We are specifically supportive of provisions that reauthorize and fund: the Community Health Center (CHC); Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME), the National Health Service Corps programs; the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program; and the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

The CHC program provides access to affordable primary care, mental health, and substance use services, including treatment for opioids, to millions of patients annually. In many communities, CHC's are the sole provider of care to vulnerable populations, especially women and children. The THCGME program, which has been one of the most successful workforce programs ever enacted, plays a central role in the training of the next generation of primary care physicians. The MIECHV program provides critical support and skills to vulnerable families.

We also applaud the inclusion of funds with no matching requirement to assist Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with their Medicaid programs. These islands were devastated by natural disasters and we are encouraged that additional resources are being provided to extend health care services to the impacted populations.

Finally, we support the additional four years of authorization for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program. The CHIP program remains one of the most successful health care programs in the country and strongly support efforts to ensure its stability for the next ten years. This bipartisan agreement accomplishes many priorities for our physician members and the millions of patients they care for. Our organizations call on the United State Senate and House of Representatives to take immediate action to pass this legislation.