



## North Carolina Community Health Center Association

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[www.NCCHCA.org](http://www.NCCHCA.org) | 4917 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 165, Raleigh, NC 27606 | 919-469-5701

### \*\*\*Press Statement\*\*\*

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**Who:** The North Carolina Community Health Center Association, which represents 42 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) that provide integrated medical, dental, pharmacy, behavioral health, and enabling services to more than 743,000 patients at over 400 clinical service sites in 85 N.C. counties.

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### NCCHCA Applauds the NCGA for Passing Medicaid Expansion

*The Association Says HB 76 Will Have Notes a Transformative Impact on Patient Care and CHC Operations*

The North Carolina Community Health Center Association applauds the North Carolina General Assembly's passage of House Bill 76, which will expand Medicaid coverage to hundreds of thousands of uninsured North Carolinians once implemented. Medicaid expansion will also strengthen the state's Federally Qualified Health Centers (also known as Community Health Centers), which provide comprehensive primary care services in rural and medically underserved communities without regard to patients' ability to pay.

"Medicaid expansion is the single most transformative state policy the N.C. General Assembly can enact to increase access to health care and strengthen the primary care safety net," said NCCHCA President & CEO Chris Shank.

"Not only will Medicaid expansion help Community Health Centers enhance and expand the services we provide to medically underserved communities, but it will also enable hundreds of thousands of our state's residents to live healthier lives with more secure access to the care they need," said Reuben C. Blackwell, IV, President and CEO of OIC of Rocky Mount and Chair of the NCCHCA Board of Directors.

Statewide, 36 percent of Community Health Center patients are uninsured, while uninsured rates for individual health centers are as high as 80 percent. When health centers lack reimbursement for the essential services they provide, it strains their operating budgets and prevents them from expanding their capacity to reach more patients.

Medicaid expansion would generate increased revenue for CHCs, enabling them to hire more clinical staff and expand clinical sites and needed programs, such as addiction treatment, mobile medical units, and dental services. Expanding Medicaid will also allow more patients to access preventative care and treatment for health conditions, leading to better health outcomes and lower health care costs overall.

Community Health Center leaders and providers across the state have advocated for Medicaid expansion for more than 10 years. We thank the N.C. General Assembly for taking this historic action that is vitally important to the health and economic well-being of our state.