

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia Valley Community Health

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Community Health Center Leaders Convene in Washington D.C.

Columbia Valley Community Health Leadership Met with Congressional Leaders to Discuss Funding Cliff

Monday, March 23, 2015: Wenatchee, WA: Last week, thousands of health center advocates gathered in Washington D.C. for the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) [Policy and Issues Forum](#). In addition to celebrating the 50th anniversary of Community Health Centers in America, a key focus was petitioning Congress for a legislative solution to the funding cliff.

The funding cliff refers to the current law which will reduce federal funding to Community Health Centers by 70% in 2016. Leaders from [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) and other health centers across the country have asked Congress to change the law and maintain current funding levels into the foreseeable future. According to NACHC, bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate and more than 100 national organizations have called for action to address the health center funding cliff.

Patrick Bucknum, CEO of Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH), says it is critically important that health center leaders provide their elected officials with the evidence to support the right solutions.

"It was evident to me during our meetings with Congressmen Dave Reichert, Dan Newhouse, and Senator Patty Murray that Community Health Centers continue to enjoy bi-partisan support from both houses, and both sides of the aisle," Bucknum said. "We have a growing national crisis around the need to improve the health of our communities, while simultaneously lowering costs. I am pleased to say that there is ample evidence that communities with strong community health centers, like CVCH, have a healthier population, and lower total costs of care than communities who do not."

Bucknum attended the week-long forum with past and present board chairs and CVCH director of planning and development. For more information about Columbia Valley Community Health and its programs, please contact [Andy Stewart](#), Director of Planning and Development at CVCH, at 509.664.3530.

About Columbia Valley Community Health

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves more than 25,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.