

Senate Budget Statement
3/31/15

SOME WACMHC/CHNW LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SUPPORTED IN THE SENATE BUDGET:

- **No Cuts to Safety Net**
- **Funding for Loan Repayment Program Restored**

WACMHC/CHNW LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES NOT SUPPORTED IN THE SENATE BUDGET:

- **I-502 Funding for CHCs Diverted to Education Legacy Account**

Statement

The Senate released a disappointing 2015-17 budget proposal today that shows limited support of health care investments. While funding for health care safety net programs is preserved, community health centers are given zero support to care for their large percentage of uninsured patients.

The Senate budget sacrifices health care to fund education – an unacceptable trade-off. It diverts marijuana revenue designed to support care for uninsured patients, to the Education Legacy Account. This leaves community health centers with no state support for 21% of their patients, who cannot afford or are ineligible for current health coverage options. We hope both the Senate and the House will do the right thing and direct the revenues from the marijuana initiative to support the uninsured as the voters intended.

The budget also restores funding levels for the Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program to address a serious primary care provider shortage. However, new earmarks for specific interest groups may have negative impacts on a program that has been extremely successful in meeting high unmet primary care needs. Community health centers will work closely with legislators to ensure the integrity of the program remains intact.

Community health centers believe that health care investments are essential and hope the final budget reflects that value, with the necessary revenue to make it possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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