



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Kirsten Keys, Events & Communications Coordinator

Phone: (717) 761-6443, ext. 205 / kirsten@pachc.com

PACHC Comments on Governor Corbett's Medicaid Announcement

Harrisburg, PA – As part of Governor Tom Corbett's 2013-14 budget priorities unveiled today, his administration expressed strong apprehension regarding the expansion of Medicaid following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA allows state Medicaid programs the option to cover all individuals under the age of 65 with incomes between 100% and 133% Federal Poverty Level (an individual with an income between \$11,170 and \$14,856) in addition to those already eligible for Medicaid. Expanded Medicaid eligibility levels are directly associated with the enhanced ability of safety net providers like Community Health Centers to invest in capacity, increase access and better meet the needs of patients and our communities.

The Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC) firmly believes that expansion of Medicaid to more vulnerable Pennsylvanians is the best approach to support access to primary and preventive care to help individuals get well and stay well and offset the need for more expensive emergency and inpatient care. Recently, the nation has seen bi-partisan support across states for expanding Medicaid and as recently as this week, our neighboring Governor John Kasich (R-Ohio) opted to expand Medicaid. Governor Jan Brewer (R-Arizona) found workable solutions to mitigate the concern of reduced federal funding in the expansion with a proposal to reduce Medicaid enrollments in the event of a reduction in federal funding. Governor Brewer is also in the process of developing a solution to provide for the state's financial obligations for this expansion.

Cheri Rinehart, President and CEO of PACHC said, "We appreciate the Corbett Administration's deliberative approach on the decision to expand Medicaid to more Pennsylvanians. As the governor and legislature weigh the pros and cons of expansion before reaching a final decision, we urge them to do so in collaboration with providers such as Community Health Centers that share responsibility with the state in ensuring access to quality care for the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens."

Pennsylvania's more than 250 Community Health Center sites provide quality primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to over 700,000 uninsured and underinsured patients in rural and urban underserved areas statewide and are uniquely well positioned to understand the healthcare needs of vulnerable Pennsylvanians. Community Health Centers welcome the opportunity to work in partnership to develop a 'Pennsylvania way' to address these needs.

Estimates provided in the Department of Public Welfare's budget summaries reflect that Medicaid expansion under the ACA would provide health insurance to an estimated 800,000 additional children and adults who cannot afford coverage.

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PACHC is a statewide membership services organization representing Community Health Centers - the largest primary care network in Pennsylvania and the nation - and other primary healthcare safety net providers that care for more than 700,000 Pennsylvanians through nearly 250 non-profit health center delivery sites in rural and urban communities across Pennsylvania. Visit www.pachc.com to find a Community Health Center near you.