

House Budget Statement
3/27/15

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

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

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

- **I-502 Funding for CHCs Used to Supplant Medicaid Dollars**

Statement

With the release of its proposed 2015-17 budget today, the House took a clear and crucial stand to ensure health care funding remains a priority by including new revenue, but failed to recognize that the security of health care coverage is still out of reach for many in our state. The House budget moves the promise of the Affordable Care Act forward by maintaining steady funding for the health care safety net and funding to improve access to care through the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program. These investments will help improve health outcomes for the more than 500,000 new Medicaid enrollees and decrease state health care costs.

However, the House made a very disappointing decision to substitute state Medicaid funding for community health centers with money from the marijuana initiative. This is in opposition to the intent of Initiative 502 to provide additional funds to the community health centers to allow them to continue serving the large number of patients who cannot afford or are ineligible for current health coverage options and remain uninsured. Medicaid state funding is to be used for those enrolled in the program, and not for the 21% of uninsured patients community health centers continue to see.

The community health centers hope the House will do the right thing and direct the revenues from the marijuana initiative to support the uninsured as the voters intended. We hope the Senate also includes revenue in its budget to ensure necessary health care investments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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