



Connecting Communities Who Care

TENNESSEE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE

TPCA PRESENTS CONGRESS MEMBERS WITH 2008 DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY HEALTH SUPERHERO AWARDS

Washington, D.C.— Delegates from the Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) presented Senator Lamar Alexander, Representative Marsha Blackburn, Representative Lincoln Davis and Representative Bart Gordon with the National Association of Community Health Centers' 2008 Distinguished Community Health Superhero Award last week. These lawmakers have been supporters of key legislation crucial to the continued existence of Community Health Centers in Tennessee and across the country.

"We appreciate the leadership these members of Congress have demonstrated in bringing primary health care services to needy Tennessee communities," said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, Chief Executive Officer of the Tennessee Primary Care Association. The Distinguished Community Health Superhero Award is given to those members of Congress who have cosponsored the Health Centers reauthorization bill (H.R. 1343 in the House, S. 901 in the Senate), co-signed the appropriations letters (Pallone-Deal letter in the House, Stabenow-Bond Letter in the Senate), and voted in favor of an SCHIP reauthorization/expansion bill that included a Prospective Payment System for Health Centers.

Nationally, Community Health Centers serve 17 million patients in more than 6,000 locations nationwide. Community Health Centers have achieved historic success in addressing health disparities and other barriers to care, and have emerged as a leading model for community-based primary care delivery. With an eye to the future, Community Health Centers have set out an ambitious goal: to preserve, strengthen and expand health centers to reach 30 million patients by the year 2015.

In order to pursue that agenda, Community Health Centers have earned and enjoyed support in Congress that is broad and bipartisan. Nearly every Member of Congress has cast one vote, supported one measure, or signed one letter that advances the Community Health Center agenda. Yet some Members go the extra mile to demonstrate their commitment to Community Health Centers nationwide – and for that, every year the National Association of Community Health Centers recognizes a select group of truly committed leaders who have taken the lead and broken down barriers on behalf of all Community Health Centers.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is the only national health care organization dedicated exclusively to expanding health care access for America's medically underserved through the community-based health center model. For more information, please visit www.nachc.org.

A member of NACHC, the Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a nonprofit corporation connecting Tennesseans with a health care home, especially the medically underserved. Since its inception in 1976, TPCA committed to 1) identifying unmet needs and gaps in service access, 2) developing systems of care, 3) advocating for resources, and 4) promoting awareness of Community Health Centers. Membership includes 34 nonprofit primary care clinics across the state operating over 150 sites providing comprehensive medical care.

[PHOTOS ATTACHED]

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