



*A driving force for health equity*

*Transmitted via email*

September 15, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chair, Education and Workforce Committee

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member, Education and Workforce Committee

Dear Reps., McMorris Rodgers, Jason Smith, Virginia Foxx, Frank Pallone, Richard Neal, and Bobby Scott:

On behalf of OCHIN Inc., we commend you for your leadership in improving and expanding access to care for the many rural and underserved communities our members serve. We strongly support the House Energy and Commerce, House Ways and Means and House Education and Workforce Committee's combined efforts to improve health care delivery and outcomes in the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (HR 5378). **We strongly support and urge urgency around the health center reauthorization.**

OCHIN serves nearly 2,000 community health care sites with 25,000 providers in 40 states, reaching more than 8 million patients in underserved and rural communities. OCHIN members include federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), community health clinics, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Health Centers, school-based health clinics, Tribal health clinics, local public health agencies, and rural community hospitals. For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced health care solutions by leveraging the strength of the network's unique data set and the practical experience of our members to drive technology innovation for patients and providers.

The enactment of HR 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act will provide a much-needed boost in funding for Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education. Under your leadership, our members will be able to build on their abilities to improve the health of rural and underserved communities across the country. Workforce shortages continue to be a major challenge for health care providers, whether a large health system or community health center. We commend your continued support for the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers GME program.

While there is a great need to increase the number of doctors and nurses in the workforce, our members also face challenges in trying to fill much needed billing and coding operational positions and electronic health records professionals to keep their facilities operating. Without these key operational professionals our physicians continue to face increasing levels of burnout as they juggle administrative documentation requirements and the needs of patients. We urge Congress to consider investing in local health care organizations, like OCHIN and our members to provide allied health training certification and jobs for those not wishing to pursue a four-year degree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Stoll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Stoll  
Executive Vice President  
External Affairs

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries