



ACTION MEMO

...requiring your immediate attention!

April 3, 1981

HAVE YOU BEEN DOING YOUR FAIR SHARE?!

LETTERS, PHONE CALLS, VISITS -- IT'S NOT SHOWING UP ON THE HILL

* * *

THE HEAT IS ON -- AND WE NEED TO DO BETTER --

MUCH BETTER

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH DANGER YOUR HEALTH CLINIC IS IN? IF WE LOSE ON THE BLOCK GRANT, THERE WILL BE NO CHECK ON OCTOBER 1 -- AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT WILL SO NOTIFY YOU SHORTLY.

STATUS:

Many of you have done an outstanding job -- but most Congressmen and Senators have not received more than 200 letters and phone calls; and that's NOT enough!

It's not enough because the White House is exerting tremendous pressure to:

1. hold Congressional Republicans in line on its economic program, budget cuts and block grants, and
2. trying to make Democrats or Moderates who don't vote their way, look like big spenders or budget busters

This month will be one of the most critical months for us, because:

1. AUTHORIZATIONS - Both the House and Senate Health Committees will consider and act on the block grant proposal (late April or early May).
2. BUDGET - The House and Senate will act on the overall Budget ceilings -- which will affect the (\$) Appropriation levels.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC.
1625 I Street, N.W., Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 833-9280

ACTION FOR APRIL:

1. Multiply the number of letters and phone calls you have been doing times 5.
 - a. Send them to your Congressman, two Senators and to the President.
(White House mail is running 10 to 1 in favor of the Administration.)
 - b. Make sure some of your letters speak directly in opposition to the block grants and funding cuts. Others should consist of one or two sentences from patients, for example:

"Please support my health center. The President wants to close it, but we need it badly."

2. Continue your weekly Congressional appointments.
3. Make sure you visit your Congressman and Senators while they are home for the Easter Recess. Some folks are having mass meetings of 500 - 800 people meeting with key Congressmen or Senators -- you might consider it.

YOU MUST MAKE THIS APPOINTMENT -- NO EXCUSES!

Easter Recess Schedule: Senate - April 12 - 19
House - April 16 - 26

4. Make sure this information is passed on to your Board members, especially Consumers -- they must be involved!
5. We must have letters and calls from other organizations and groups, particularly local businessmen and those to whom we give business. Try for at least 50 a week.

SPECIFIC ACTION:

* AUTHORIZING

- House - Ask Congressman to oppose the block grant for health centers. Ask him to co-sponsor Chairman Waxman's Bill, H.R. 2562.

- Senate -

Democrats - Ask Congressman to oppose block grant and contact Senators Kennedy or Hollings.

**Republicans* - Ask Congressman to oppose the block grant and contact Senator Lowell Weicker (Conn.)

NOTE: We are only two votes short (on the Senate Authorizing Committee) of defeating the Block Grant. Make sure your Congressman or Senators are voting WITH US.

THERE IS NO NEXT TIME -- THIS IS IT!



ACTION MEMO

...requiring your immediate attention!

August 3, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: STATE COORDINATORS
FROM: TOM VAN COVERDEN *Tom Van Coverden*
Director, Policy Analysis Department
SUBJECT: Final Reconciliation Agreement for Health Center Programs

As you already know, the Congress has produced its final agreement on reconciliation legislation, including several provisions affecting the future of the Community and Migrant Health Center programs. I am enclosing a copy of the final agreement -- as it appears in the July 29, 1981, copy of the Congressional Record -- for your use and distribution.

As a personal note, I want to congratulate you for your superb job in assuring the continued existence of these vital programs. While we did not win all that we wanted, we did win much more than we lost. In the end, our programs emerged from this bloody reconciliation process in much better shape than most other Federal social programs -- and for that we can and should be justifiably proud.

While we have survived the first battle, we have not yet won the war. Our most immediate concern now must be the FY 1982 appropriations (actual funding). Remember that the Reagan Administration proposed two things for health centers:
-- the block grant, and
-- a 25 percent cut in funding.

The Appropriations Committee will most likely act on fiscal 1982 appropriations for CHCs, migrant health, and other health programs when it returns in September. We fully expect the Administration to press hard for a 25 percent cut in CHC/MH funding for 1982 (this would mean only \$244 million for CHCs, and \$33 million for Migrant Health). WE MUST CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FULL FUNDING OF BOTH PROGRAMS, AT THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZATION LEVEL (i.e., \$284 million for CHCs, \$43 million for Migrant Health).

You and others in your State should begin your contacts with members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (see attached list) while they are home for the August recess. Because of the huge cuts resulting from reconciliation, the Appropriations Committees are likely to give us the benefit of the doubt -- especially if they hear from their own constituents!

Again, congratulations for a job well done!

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC.
1625 I Street, N.W., Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 833-9280