

# Health Care for the Homeless Mobilizer

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council

P.O. Box 60427  
Nashville, TN 37206-0427  
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E-mail: [council@nhchc.org](mailto:council@nhchc.org)  
Website: [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org)

Telephone 615/226-2292  
Fax 615/226-1656  
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## Health Center Reauthorization Pending Act NOW to Continue HCH Program

Health Care for the Homeless served 653,000 persons last year, as part of the Health Center Program authorized by the Congress. The authorizing law must be renewed periodically, and needs to be renewed now. Advocates have agreed that a "straight" reauthorization, making no changes to the existing law, is in the best interests of all health center clients. For homeless people, a straight reauthorization will assure that at least 8.7% of Health Center funding is available and that a multi-disciplinary, outreach-oriented model of care is preserved.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee is scheduled to vote on S. 3771, the "Health Centers Renewal Act," **next Wednesday, September 20th**. To ensure that the Senate HELP Committee passes S. 3771 **without changes**, we need an overwhelming majority (at least 60) of Senators to cosponsor the legislation before next week - as of today, **only 40** Senators have cosponsored S. 3771; current co-sponsors are listed below.

Additional information on the legislation is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN03771:@@P>

### **ACTION**

- **Call or write to your Senators' office, regarding S 3771.** Members of the Senate can be reached at <http://www.senate.gov> or through the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121
- **If the Senator is willing to become a co-sponsor**, ask them to call Pattie DeLoatche with Sen. Hatch (202-224- 5251) or Stacey Sachs with Sen. Kennedy (202-224-7675) to sign-on.
- **If your Senator(s) are already signed on as co-sponsors**, thank them for their support.

### **Talking points:**

- S. 3771 provides for the reauthorization of a safety net program that is increasingly essential as more and more Americans become uninsured (up to 46.6 million in the recent census report). While not a solution to the problem of uninsurance, health centers are vital to preserving the health of millions of Americans.
- A straight reauthorization will preserve a strong program with bipartisan support, and will allow for the continued growth of Health Centers, including Health Care for the Homeless.

### **Current Co-Sponsors of S. 3771**

Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI]	Sen Domenici, Pete V. [NM]	- Sen Menendez, Robert [NJ]
Sen Bayh, Evan [IN]	Sen Durbin, Richard [IL]	Sen Mikulski, Barbara A. [MD]
Sen Bennett, Robert F. [UT]	Sen Ensign, John [NV]	- Sen Murkowski, Lisa [AK]
Sen Bingaman, Jeff [NM]	- 9/13/2006	Sen Murray, Patty [WA]
Sen Bond, Christopher S. [MO]	Sen Feinstein, Dianne [CA]	Sen Nelson, Bill [FL]
Sen Boxer, Barbara [CA]	Sen Grassley, Chuck [IA]	Sen Obama, Barack [IL]
Sen Burr, Richard [NC]	Sen Harkin, Tom [IA]	Sen Reed, Jack [RI]
Sen Cantwell, Maria [WA]	Sen Jeffords, James M. [VT]	Sen Salazar, Ken [CO]
Sen Chafee, Lincoln [RI]	Sen Johnson, Tim [SD]	Sen Sarbanes, Paul S. [MD]
Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY]	Sen Kennedy, Edward M. [MA]	Sen Schumer, Charles E. [NY]
Sen Collins, Susan M. [ME]	Sen Kerry, John F. [MA]	- Sen Smith, Gordon H. [OR]
Sen DeWine, Mike [OH]	Sen Landrieu, Mary L. [LA]	Sen Snowe, Olympia J. [ME]
Sen Dodd, Christopher J. [CT]	Sen Lautenberg, Frank R. [NJ]	Sen Stabenow, Debbie [MI]
		Sen Sununu, John E. [NH]
		Sen Talent, Jim [MO]

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