



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Health Centers Appreciate Support of SB 4

Harrisburg, PA – On behalf of more than 250 non-profit Community Health Center delivery sites providing primary medical, dental and behavioral health care for more than 700,000 vulnerable Pennsylvanians annually, we thank the Pennsylvania Senate for adopting Senator Ryan Aument’s Senate Bill 4.


Community Health Centers comprise the largest network of primary care providers, with locations in 48 counties of our Commonwealth serving predominantly low-income patients with high quality outcomes. However, since 2012’s *Mesivtah Eitz Chaim of Bobov, Inc. v. Pike County Board of Assessment Appeals* court decision, several Community Health Centers have been targeted for local tax assessments.

We were pleased with the clarity provided by the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act (Act 55 of 1997), and were disappointed when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision re-created uncertainty and instability on this issue. As a result, we have been supportive of Senate Bill 4 as legislation that places a referendum question on the November general election ballot to ask the public if the state legislature should be granted authority to define the criteria of “purely public charity.”

On behalf of small non-profit organizations that have been subject to arbitrary and inconsistent local interpretations of what is considered to be a non-profit and the unanticipated costs of these challenges, we welcome an opportunity to have the public’s voice heard and ultimately give the state legislature the ability to create fair criteria that can be consistently applied.

We thank Senator Aument and supporters of the bill for their leadership in passing this legislation and urge the House to also adopt it.

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The Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC) is a statewide membership services organization representing Community Health Centers  - the largest primary care network in Pennsylvania and the nation – rural health clinics and other safety net providers that care for more than 700,000 Pennsylvanians at nearly 300 delivery sites in rural and urban communities across the Commonwealth. Visit www.pachc.org or call 1-(866) 944-CARE to find a Community Health Center near you.