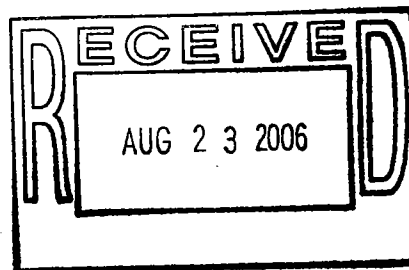




OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc.

August 25, 2006



Randall L. Johnson, Chair
Citizens' Health Care Working Group
7201 Wisconsin Avenue Suite 575
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Recently, the Citizens' Health Care Working Group released its interim recommendations for how to make quality health care more accessible and affordable to every American.

While I support the majority of the Working Group's interim recommendations, I am writing to express my concern with the recommendation to *expand and modify the Federally Qualified Health Center concept to accommodate other community-based health centers and practices serving vulnerable populations.*

OneWorld Community Health Centers believes in the philosophy of the FQHC program to provide affordable, quality, patient-directed health care to the uninsured and underserved. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the requirement that each FQHC be governed by a patient-dominated Board of Directors. OneWorld Community Health Centers has an efficient, knowledgeable board of directors that is involved with the planning process and works well with the staff at our clinic.

The Working Group's recommendation would effectively take the community out of the process by removing or significantly diminishing the community board requirement. This would seriously impact the integrity of the FQHC program, which has a long history as one of the most successful, cost-effective federal programs.

I strongly encourage you to eliminate this recommendation. Other providers who want federal recognition and support, but do not wish to meet current FQHC requirements, should seek independent legislative recognition – making their justification in a manner similar to FQHCs.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Skolkin, MPA
Chief Executive Officer