



## H.R. 1343 – The Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1343 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gene Green (D-TX) on March 15, 2007. The House passed H.R. 1343, on June 4, 2008, by a vote of 393 to 24. The Senate passed the bill, with an amendment, by unanimous consent on September 24, 2008.

H.R. 1343 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 25, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

**Authorization Levels:** S. 901 authorizes the following levels for the Health Centers Program of the Public Health Service Act: \$2.065 billion for fiscal year 2008; \$2.313 billion for fiscal year 2009; \$2.602 billion for fiscal year 2010; \$2.94 billion for fiscal year 2011; and \$3.337 billion for fiscal year 2012.

**Studies:** The bill requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study within two years of enactment regarding the economic costs and benefits to school based health centers and the impact on the health of students of these centers. In addition, it requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study on the integrated health system models at not more than ten sites for the delivery of health care services to medically underserved populations.

**Reports:** It also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit a report that describes the agency efforts to expand and accelerate quality improvement activities in community health centers to the relevant Congressional committees within one year of enactment.

**National Health Service Corps:** The bill extends the National Health Service Corps Program through 2012. The bill authorizes the following levels for the National Health Service Corps: \$131,500,000 for fiscal year 2008; \$143,335,000 for fiscal year 2009; \$156,235,150 for fiscal year 2010; \$170,296,310 for fiscal year 2011; and \$185,622,980 for fiscal year 2012.

**Rural Health Care Programs:** The bill reauthorizes rural health care programs at a level of \$45 million for each of the fiscal years 2008 to 2012.

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### BACKGROUND

The Health Center program is a community-based and consumer-run program that serves underserved populations in the U.S. This includes low-income individuals, the uninsured, those with limited English proficiency, migrant and seasonal farm workers, homeless individuals and families, and people living in public housing.

Health centers serve 17 million people in 6,000 communities in all fifty states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam annually. This number includes about 925,000 farm workers and nearly 940,000 homeless. Almost 40,000 health care professionals serve in these health centers daily.

[Department of Health and Human Services – The Health Center Program](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for the current version of H.R. 1343 as of September 24, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT



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