



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LPCA Statement: Congratulations to Speaker Mike Johnson

The Louisiana Primary Care Association congratulates U.S. Representative Mike Johnson on his election as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. As a native of Benton, Louisiana, Speaker Johnson is the first native Louisianan to hold this powerful position within our federal government.

Since Speaker Johnson was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, our organization and Louisiana's Community Health Centers have enjoyed a productive and collaborative relationship with the Congressman and members of his staff. Over the course of his tenure in the House, Speaker Johnson has served as a champion for expanding healthcare access and has demonstrated his passion for the underserved and vulnerable populations in Louisiana's 4th Congressional district. Now, in his new role as Speaker, we have every reason to believe that he will carry forward this work and lend his voice to the needs of his constituents in Louisiana – and all Americans - who wish for a more equitable and accessible healthcare system.

With a government shutdown on the horizon and the impending expiration of many important programs, Speaker Johnson and his colleagues in Congress have a lot of work to accomplish.

Among the many priorities facing Congress, one of the most urgent remains addressing the health center funding cliff. Indeed, millions of Americans, including 470,000 Louisianans, depend on Community Health Centers for important primary care, dental, mental health and enabling services. Should this funding expire, millions will be left without access to affordable services and preventive care – almost certainly putting an undue burden on our local emergency rooms and hospitals. Expired funding will also cause a detrimental impact to health center operations and staffing, risking cuts to employment and extending impacts to local economies who rely on health center economic activity.

For these reasons, we humbly ask Speaker Johnson and every member of Congress to support a funding extension for Community Health Centers, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME).



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For nearly sixty years, health centers have received strong bipartisan support. We know Speaker Johnson will continue this legacy.

As we always have, the Louisiana Primary Care Association stands ready to support this effort and serve as a collaborative partner. We know that by working together, Speaker Johnson, his colleagues in Congress and all of us have an opportunity to improve the health and well-being of our state and nation.

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About the Louisiana Primary Care Association

Established in 1982 as a non-profit organization, the Louisiana Primary Care Association proudly serves as the voice of Louisiana's Community Health Centers, promoting accessible, affordable, quality healthcare services for the uninsured and medically underserved populations of our state. LPCA represents 41 federally funded Community Health Center organizations who collectively serve over 475,000 patients per year. Learn more at LPCA.net.