Legislative Advocacy Letter

Please take the following letter, input your data in the first paragraph, sign it with your label, put this on your letterhead and send it to Governor Evers, Secretary-designee Palm and your local State Senator and Assemblyman/Assemblywoman. You can find the contact information for your representatives by clinking on this link => <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and inputting your address in the box at the lower right side of the page. It is best to e-mail these rather than regular mail. Even better is to cut and paste the letter into the body of the e-mail and also attach the file to the e-mail. Thank you!

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Dear Governor/Secretary-designee/Senator/Representative Xxxxxxxx:

RE: COVID 19 Support for Free and Charitable Clinics

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Clinic Name), our \_\_\_ (Number) selfless staff and volunteers and the \_\_\_(Number) Wisconsinites we care for each year, thank you for your leadership in protecting Wisconsin from the ravages of COVID-19. We are all working hard to combat the spread of the virus and care for those afflicted. To that end, we are asking for your support as frontline responders to COVID-19. Below, please find our specific requests for your consideration.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

As the state of Wisconsin asks the federal government and/or private industry for assistance in acquiring personal protective equipment for medical providers, we ask that you include Free and Charitable Clinics and Charitable Pharmacies as eligible locations to receive this equipment. Our clinics are providing access to care and combating COVID-19 on a daily basis with dwindling resources and need assistance.

**Uninsured Testing**

Under the Families First Act passed by Congress, states have the option to extend Medicaid eligibility to uninsured patients, so they do not have to pay for COVID-19 testing. We strongly encourage you to expand this eligibility to the uninsured in our state. Additionally, we strongly urge the State Government to establish funding programs to cover the full cost of COVID-19 treatment for uninsured patients who test positive.

**Funding**

Free and Charitable Clinics and Charitable Pharmacies are not FQHCs, as defined by section 330 of the Public Health Services Act. Therefore, we are unable to access the critical federal funding and equipment resources being allocated. Continuing to provide funds solely to one part of the safety-net during this pandemic is not enough. It is imperative that the State of Wisconsin recognize the vital role Free and Charitable Clinics and Charitable Pharmacies are playing to address COVID-19 and ensure that state funding and resources are made available.

Furthermore, we anticipate a surge of unemployed individuals seeking care in our clinics as this crisis unfolds. Without immediate financial support from government, Wisconsin’s charitable non-profits and the people we serve face a steep decline in mission services. We echo the concerns raised by the broader non-profit community and strongly support an emergency stimulus funding program aimed at helping adversely affected state and local organizations.

Without these changes, Free and Charitable Clinics and Charitable Pharmacies in Wisconsin may no longer be able to continue to serve as frontline health care providers during this pandemic. As the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Title) of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Clinic Name), please don’t hesitate to contact me or Dennis Skrajewski, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (WAFCC), if you have any questions. Dennis can be reached at 414-308-6839 (mobile) or via email at WAFCCDirector@gmail.com. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Respectfully,