



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Members of Michigan Congressional Delegation Honored with National Health Care Awards**

At the National Association of Community Health Centers' (NACHC) Policy & Issues Forum held last week in Washington, DC, Michigan's U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, and Congressmen John Conyers, John Dingell, Vernon Ehlers, Dale Kildee, Gary Peters, Mike Rogers, Mark Schauer, Bart Stupak, and Fred Upton were recognized for their strong support of Health Centers in Michigan and across the country.

Senator Stabenow was named a Distinguished Community Health Champion for her leadership on behalf of those who rely on America's Health Centers for their health care. She has worked tirelessly as a member of the Senate Finance Committee throughout health reform to ensure that low-income communities are guaranteed access to primary care and a Health Center home.

Congressman Dingell was named a Distinguished Community Health Defender for his long-time commitment to Community Health Center initiatives. He understands that Health Centers provide a network of quality, affordable, primary and preventive health care for this state's and this nation's most vulnerable residents. His actions affirm that he is committed to preserving, strengthening, and expanding the Health Center program, which will save money and lead to a healthier nation.

Senator Levin and Congressmen Conyers, Ehlers, Kildee, Peters, Rogers, Schauer, Stupak, and Upton were named Distinguished Community Health Superheros. Each one voted in support of the Health Center mission during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, which is to provide access to high quality primary and preventive health care for all people.

"The fact that NACHC honored so many of Michigan's Congressional delegation this year shows the broad bi-partisan and bi-cameral support that Health Centers have received," said Kim Sibilsky, Executive Director, Michigan Primary Care Association. "Michigan Primary Care Association and the Community Health Centers we represent look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our elected officials to expand the reach of Health Centers in our state and ensure more residents in need have access to quality, affordable health care."

**- MORE -**

**Page 2**

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NACHC's Policy & Issues Forum annually convenes Community Health Center professionals, board members, advocates, volunteers and patients from across the country to strengthen efforts toward Health Center expansion to meet the ever-increasing demand for care.

Today, 31 Michigan Community Health Centers provide quality, comprehensive, community-based, culturally-oriented primary health care for nearly 600,000 individuals at over 160 delivery sites across the state. Each Health Center's services are tailored to meet the unique needs of their patients and surrounding communities, and are governed by a patient-majority board of directors.

**About Michigan Primary Care Association**

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit [www.mpca.net](http://www.mpca.net) or call 517.381.8000. MPCA is also on Facebook and on Twitter.

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