

## **Gonzalez: GOP Cuts Threaten Community Health**

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX – 20) denounced the Republicans' irresponsible spending plan that makes devastating health care cuts, including \$61 million to prenatal care for mothers and children and \$1.3 billion from Community Health Centers.

"We are committed to living within our means, while investing in the future, but we will do so responsibly – not at the expense of quality health care, a strong middle class, and a growing economy for people here in Texas," said Congressman Gonzalez. "Unfortunately, the Republicans' reckless plan will cut critical services to millions of women and families and deny them of the quality health care they need."

The Republican Spending Bill Threatens the Health of Our Communities By:

- Eliminating \$61 million in funding from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grants forces doctors to decide which of the millions of mothers they serve will not receive the prenatal care they need to give birth to healthy babies. In one year, these grants assisted over 4 million women nationwide.

- Cutting \$1.3 billion from Community Health Centers will deny critical health care to nearly 3.2 million new patients. Currently, Community Health Centers provide quality, affordable health care to 20 million people.

In San Antonio, health care providers such as CommuniCare Health Centers will be greatly impacted if the funding is eliminated and other funding cannot be secured.

According to CommuniCare Health Centers:

- 8,628 patients (in Bexar and Hays Counties) in 25,834 visits will not receive the healthcare that they need and that they received in 2010

- 35 jobs may have to be eliminated
- Expansion planned for 2011 and 2012 that would provide medical and dental care to over 8,300 new patients would be eliminated
- Expansion planned for case management/patient navigation to 2,700 new patients that are from high-risk populations would be eliminated
- 18.8 jobs planned for creation in 2011 would not occur

“We must make some difficult cuts in order to get our fiscal house in order, but the Republican proposal threatens the health of Americans and of our fragile economic recovery,” added Congressman Gonzalez.

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