



FEB 08 2011

Senate of Pennsylvania

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Edwin B. Erickson *CBC*
DATE: February 8, 2011
SUBJECT: Community-Based Health Care (CHC) Act

I plan to reintroduce Senate Bill 5 of 2009, legislation that would establish the Community-Based Health Care (CHC) Act. This legislation is designed to expand and enhance existing resources in the community to provide health care for the uninsured. The legislation would establish a program in the Department of Health to provide grants to community-based health care clinics which provide "medical homes" for the uninsured.

Community-based health care clinics provide the uninsured with a medical home that emphasizes a partnership among the patient, physician, nurses, and clinic staff. These health clinics become the center where patients are known, recognized, and supported and a place where patients find a centralized base for medical care and connection to other medical and supportive community services.

Community-based health clinics are an integral part of a community providing both an economic benefit and needed health care. Health clinics provide needed primary, preventive and cost-effective health care regardless of patients' insurance status or ability to pay. Health clinics also help to reduce the use of costly hospital emergency room visits and avoidable hospital admissions.

Community-based health care clinics serve the medically needy and medically underserved through federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, hospital clinics that serve a designated health care professional shortage area, nurse-practitioner clinics and free or partial-pay health clinics which provide services by volunteer medical providers.

Grants, provided by the legislation, shall be available to community-based health care clinics to improve and expand access and to improve the delivery and quality of health care resources for physical, dental and behavioral health care services. Grants may be used to promote the use of chronic care and disease management.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Linda Kauffman at 787-1350 or lkauffman@pasen.gov.