



Now more than ever, **patients, health centers and members of the community** need to work together to advocate for **patient rights**. Together, as one **VOICE**, we can make a difference in what affects our lives, our families and community.



As a **Health Center Advocate** and a member of the **Patient Advocacy Committee**, you can help ensure that **First Choice continues to receive Federal funding** to make sure that everyone in our community has access to quality, affordable healthcare.

WHERE DO I SIGN UP ?



To join the **Patient Advocacy Committee**, please contact Donna Kehoe at **860-610-6161**

Committee meetings will be held **once a month or as needed**.

Advocacy **training** will be provided during the **first two meetings**.

Patients, family members, and friends are invited to join the **Patient Advocacy Committee**.



LOVE YOUR HEALTH CENTER



JOIN THE FIRST CHOICE PATIENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE



WHY DO I CARE? WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Federally Qualified Health Centers :

- ⇒ Are one of the few things in healthcare that both **Democrats** and **Republicans** agree upon.
- ⇒ Do not turn away anyone who needs a **place to go for health care**....Health Centers are a **local solution** to the **national challenge** of provider access to affordable primary care.
- ⇒ Have a **track record of success** and **hard data** to show **our value** to the community in which we serve.
- ⇒ Are on the **front line of the most challenging health crises**: obesity prevention, diabetes management, asthma care, substance abuse counselling, etc.



HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Effective Advocacy has one requirement: **ACTION!**

- Sign up to become a Health Center Advocate and **Patient Advocacy Committee member** today.
- **As a committee member, you will learn the issues facing health care today**
- As a committee member, you will have the knowledge (provided at committee meetings) to meet with your **local, state and federal officials in their offices** or at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford
- As a committee member, you will be encouraged to attend **local town hall meetings and legislator office hours**, events hosted by legislators, get out the vote events, and **help register people to vote**
- As a committee member, you will be encouraged to **testify on upcoming healthcare bills, call and email legislators, and take action when there is an action alert** on a bill that will be voted upon in the near future.



WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

REPEAL AND REPLACE



In January 2017, Congress in Washington, began the process to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but have yet to provide a replacement plan for the millions of people who will lose their insurance and/or be affected in other ways from the repeal. **As of mid-February 2017, no replacement plan has been delivered to the Senate or the House of Representatives.** Health Centers across the country need to **mobilize their Boards, Staff and Patients to take action** to ensure there will be a replacement plan as good, if not better than the one they repeal.



In 2015, Congress authorized **\$7.2 billion** to fund FQHCS's for 2 years, which is **set to end on September 30, 2017**. Without these funds, many health centers across the country will have to **close their doors**, leaving **millions of people without a healthcare home**.