

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Federally-Qualified Health Centers: From Safety Net Provider to Cornerstone of Health Reform?

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ABSTRACT: Congress created an \$11 billion Trust Fund to support the start-up and expansion of “federally-qualified health centers” (FQHCs) as part of the recent health reform efforts. The establishment of the Trust Fund re-confirmed Congress’s bipartisan commitment, spanning several decades, to invest in community-based, comprehensive preventive and primary care provider organizations that serve the nation’s most vulnerable populations and medically underserved communities. This Comment discusses the evolution of the FQHC “patient-centered health home” model of care and forecasts the central role FQHCs are likely to play in achieving significant changes to our health system over the coming years.

KEYWORDS: Federally-Qualified Health Center, FQHC, Community Health Center, Look-alike, Section 330, Public Health Service Act, Affordable Care Act, Safety Net Provider, Uninsured, Medically Underserved Area

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Leifer, Evans, Graham, and Pinkham: FQHCs

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