

Readers Write: Community health clinics, a city without police, I-35W shutdown, Trump and guns, neighbors

Reinstate funding for safety-net community clinics.

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LEILA NAVIDI • STAR TRIBUNE

Fathia Salah did an eye exam at Community-University Health Care Center in Minneapolis last week.

The clock ran out. Federal funding for important safety-net health programs has expired, as detailed in last week's [Star Tribune article](#) "Health care on the brink: Minnesota low-income programs are set to expire if Congress fails to act" (Sept. 28). Funding for community health clinics (CHCs) is being cut by 70 percent, effective immediately. Minnesota clinics specifically will lose \$27 million.

I have been working with our local CHCs for many years. My work focuses on prevention and early detection, and I work to increase screening rates in all our communities.

CHCs are champions of health. They understand the meaning of health care in each community they serve. This is not cookie-cutter work. Knowing the community matters.

In cancer care, prevention and early detection are crucial. That reduces costs and improves outcomes. But patients can be afraid to be screened and they may face many barriers. Many patients are worried about the results and the costs. CHCs work hard to eliminate all possible barriers: insurance, transportation, literacy, language, mistrust, confusion about cancer, and other cultural issues.

Congress must solve this problem quickly. Clinics are implementing layoff plans because they will not have the money to pay their workers. We cannot allow the progress health centers are making to falter because Washington, D.C., doesn't understand the value. Join me in asking the Minnesota delegation to raise this issue to congressional leadership and work together to ensure that this funding is rapidly reinstated.

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