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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS PERFORM EQUAL TO IF NOT BETTER THAN PRIVATE PRACTICE PCPs**

**GREENFIELD-** Announced by the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, a study was released by the American Journal of Preventative Medicine and proved that community health centers are leading the way to healthier living!

In Massachusetts alone 800,000 individuals are cared for by community health centers. Currently, the Community Health Center of Franklin County conducts roughly 38,000 patient visits per year, seeing 8,800 individuals.

Health centers perform equally or better on the national scale in the four categories measured:

- Pharmacologic management of common chronic diseases;
- Preventive counseling for individuals at high risk of coronary artery disease (including smoking cessation, diet and exercise);
- Appropriate use of screening tests for blood pressure, electrocardiogram and urinalysis; and
- Appropriate prescribing in elderly patients.

In Massachusetts, 44% of the patients served by community health centers are insured through Medicaid, and 20% remain uninsured (down from 40% uninsured and underinsured before MA healthcare reform). As community health centers will soon serve many of the nation's 20 million newly insured individuals under the Affordable Care Act, health center patients in Massachusetts and across the country can take comfort in knowing that they are receiving top-notch treatment through these locally accessible community-based providers.

Celebrate National Health Centers Week by stopping by one of our locations and sign-up to be a patient today!

489 Bernardston Road (Cherry Rum Plaza) Greenfield, MA

338 Montague City Road, Turners Falls MA

450 West River Street, Orange MA