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MEDIA ADVISORY
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**ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY TO UNITE WITH COMMUNITY CLINICS
IN A TRUTH-TELLING FORUM ABOUT THE HEALTH CRISIS IN THE COUNTY**

Orange County patients, community and religious leaders, social service organizations, health advocacy groups, and the Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics will unpack the local crisis in health and promote genuine collaboration for healthcare. Learn about the impact that insufficient access to healthcare has on local patients, and witness the development of a community-oriented collaboration around health advocacy. Be part of the dialogue and change we need.

- WHAT: ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH IN CRISIS
 Community Health Centers on the Frontlines: A Community Forum**
- WHEN: Saturday, August 22, 2009 from 2:00PM to 4:30PM**
- WHERE: Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall
 1100 S. Center Street, Santa Ana, CA 92704**
- WHO: The Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics, Community members, healthcare providers,
 patients, and community leaders who want to share their views on the growing crisis in health
 access.**

Irvine, CA, July 2, 2009 — 2009 is a momentous period in modern community clinic history. With the severe state budget cuts that terminated key funding programs, local community clinics face a balancing act between continuing to serve the growing need and survival. A major lifeline for the public, Expanded Access to Primary Care, which was signed into law in 1989, got cut by 65% -- a dramatic and unfortunate 20-year retreat in healthcare spending! In addition, at no other time in our nation's history have we had a more viable opportunity to reform our broken healthcare system. In light of these developments, the Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics ("the Coalition") will be hosting a community forum on Saturday, August 22, from 2:00-4:30PM at the Immaculate of Mary Parish Hall to unpack the local crisis in health and promote genuine collaboration for healthcare.

"On July 1st, California eliminated Medical coverage for adult dental, vision and mental health services for over 9,160 local residents, leading to the lay-off of providers and reductions in services," says Isabel Becerra, Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics. "On July 28th, California eliminated Traditional Clinic Programs and severely gutted Expanded Access for Primary Care by 65%, which will send over 59,000 OC residents to go without health coverage. That same day, California severely cut the Healthy Families Program by 60%, which will send over 30,000 Orange County children to be without health coverage and lead to the lay-off of providers, longer wait lists and reductions in services. Contrary to popular belief Federal Stimulus funding is not available to backfill cuts to community clinic funding made by the state. In the face of the biggest budgetary crisis we have ever faced, Orange County's community clinics and health centers are all that stand in the way of millions of dollars worth of preventable spending on costly emergency room visits. The Governor needs to reverse the irresponsible, catastrophic, and illegal cuts he has made, and find a balanced solution that he earlier promised. Orange County residents and community clinics are natural partners in making the necessary change come true. There is great power in their hands."

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About the Coalition

The Coalition Orange County Community Clinics ("the Coalition") is a consortium of 19 non-profit community clinics and health centers throughout Orange County (OC). OC does not have a county-owned hospital, therefore, the 19 Coalition members are the healthcare 'safety-net' for the estimated 610,000 uninsured in OC. The Coalition represents 46 clinic sites operated by the members across OC that serve approximately 199,000 low-income, uninsured, and underserved patients annually. The Coalition's primary objective is the full implementation of the patient centered medical home model. For more info, please visit www.forhealthyoc.org.