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**For Immediate Release**

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**Family Health Centers Hosts Legislative Breakfast  
Honoring Senator John W. Mathews, Jr.**

August 11, 2015-Family Health Centers hosted a legislative breakfast this morning, honoring Senator John Mathews Jr. Health care officials and community members were present on behalf of Mathews and FHC. Officials discussed work done by Senator Mathews on behalf of health care, services provided at FHC, and the need for funding and support in 2015 and beyond.

The supportive crowd who attended the packed meeting and breakfast were informed about the progress and needs of FHC. "We are all so proud of Senator John Mathews and what he's done for health care in South Carolina," said FHC CEO Leon Brunson, Sr.

Former FHC CEO Doug Bryant " Senator Mathews helped us get over 20 million dollars to help the underserved in South Carolina. Without health care and education, there is no future for South Carolina. Senator Mathews understands that. He's had his hand on every piece of health care legislation in this state."

"The funding Senator Mathews has supported will help Family Health Centers move forward with new technology like telehealth. He's been very supportive of rural communities and health care initiatives in our area," said Bamberg City Councilperson and Executive Director-Palmetto Care Connections Kathy Schwarting. Schwarting helped FHC secure low cost internet and telehealth technology working along with the Medical University of South Carolina and SC Department of Health & Human Services.

"We provide affordable, high quality, and cost effective health care for all. We try to enhance the quality of life in the community and that's what we're doing with the help of Senator Mathews," said Brunson. While the recurring theme during the breakfast was affordable quality health care, it was also made clear that FHC needs increased funding to continue and enhance their services to rural communities where 25 percent are uninsured and 20 percent lack transportation.

"Family Health Centers is a place where families can come to obtain services ranging from dentistry, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, adult medicine to podiatry. This is deeply important to our rural communities. We need Family Health Centers," said Brunson.

For Senator Mathews, a well respected legislator with a long list of accomplishments, "Life is a circle. If you can create friends on your way up, you can help your community. It is more important today than in the past. There are still disparities in health care and still much work to do. Poverty in our community is still growing. Health care and education will close the gaps for African Americans and minorities. Family Health Centers is closing that gap."

You can find more about Family Health Centers at [www.myfhc.org](http://www.myfhc.org)

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