

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventative healthcare to underserved communities and have a significant impact on the American healthcare delivery system; and,

WHEREAS, some of our nation's pioneering health centers were founded in Chicago and enabled healthcare access to public housing residents - the Community Health Center Movement has a longstanding commitment to uprooting racial health disparities; and,

WHEREAS, our state is home to 54 Community Health Center organizations with over 400 service sites that care for more than 1.5 million Illinoisans in medically underserved areas annually; and,

WHEREAS, as the nation's largest primary care network, Community Health Centers now serves as the healthcare home for over 30 million Americans in over 14,000 delivery sites; and,

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers nationally employ more than 253,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse-midwives, who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and,

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are community-based, mission-driven organizations that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$63.4 billion in economic activity in some of the country's most economically disadvantaged communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income, and insurance status, and in doing so, improves healthcare outcomes, strengthens health equity, and reduces healthcare system costs; and,

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers reduce overall costs of care by managing chronic conditions and preventing the need for more costly forms of care, such as inpatient settings and emergency rooms; and,

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have helped to keep Illinois communities safe and healthy throughout the global coronavirus pandemic, offering testing, vaccination, and treatment; and will continue to offer reliable, affordable, high-quality care against COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are industry leaders that continuously develop new patient-centered approaches to delivering a wide range of integrated services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and,

WHEREAS, during this National Health Center Week, we celebrate the ways Community Health Centers and their dedicated staff, board members, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth in shaping the future of America's healthcare system;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 7 - 13, 2022, as **National Community Health Center Week** in Illinois and encourage all residents to visit and celebrate their local Community Health Center.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this THIRD *day of* AUGUST, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-TWO, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and FOURTH.



Dee Dee White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR