

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, for nearly 60 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventative healthcare in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on, America's healthcare delivery system; and,

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Community Health Centers generate 2 billion in savings for the Medicaid program annually and reduce overall costs of care by providing primary and preventative care, managing chronic conditions, and avoiding the need for more costly forms of care, such as inpatient settings and emergency rooms; and,

**WHEREAS**, Community Health Centers are innovative, 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 address the unique needs of Illinois' diverse communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's Community Health Centers, their tremendous staff, board members, patients, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first Community Health Centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago; and,

**WHEREAS**, during this National Health Center Week, we honor the ways America's Community Health Centers are rooted in communities and their vital role in shaping the future of the nation's healthcare system;

**THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2024, as **National Community Health Center Week** in Illinois and encourage everyone to visit their local Community Health Center to celebrate the important partnership between America's Community Health Centers and the communities they serve.

*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 TWENTY-NINTH day of JULY, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY-FOUR, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and FIFTH.*



*Alexi Giannouch*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR