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National Community Health Center Week Offers Time to Celebrate Incredible Work of Illinois' 55 Community Health Centers

Governor Pritzker Proclaims August 4-10, 2024, as National Community Health Center Week in Illinois

Springfield, Ill., August 2, 2024 - The Illinois Primary Health Care Association is proud to join Governor J.B. Pritzker in celebrating National Community Health Center Week (NCHW), taking place August 4-10. In honor of the vital contributions of community health centers (CHC) to communities across Illinois, Governor Pritzker issued a proclamation declaring this week as *National Community Health Center Week* in Illinois. It is an ideal time to recognize the outstanding work that Illinois' 55 CHCs do every day, providing equitable and accessible care to all regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status.

For more than 30 years, NCHW has been a chance to celebrate the important role health centers play as go-to providers of integrated primary medical care, behavioral health treatment, and dental services. Across the nation, nearly 1,500 health centers are the health care home to:

- One in five uninsured people
- One in three people living in poverty
- One in seven rural residents
- Nearly nine million children
- 400,000 veterans

This year's NCHW celebration, launched by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), focuses on "Powering Communities Through Caring Connections" through a host of scheduled events that include resource fairs, back-to-school drives, health screenings, and visits to health centers by local, state, and national leaders.

Though each health center marks the occasion with different activities, this annual observance allows our sector to showcase its unique, innovative service model and show its appreciation for their staff, patients, and partners. While individual health centers provide care to their local communities, when looked at, the reach and impact made by health centers across the country is incredible. Illinois health centers alone provide care for nearly 1.5 million people each year. Nationally, health centers care for nearly 31.5 million each year.

Each day of the week will provide an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the many facets of CHCs.

Sunday, August 4, 2024- Public Health in Housing Day

Monday, August 5, 2024- Healthcare for People Experiencing Homelessness Day

Tuesday, August 6, 2024- Agricultural Worker Health Day

Wednesday, August 7, 2024- Patient Appreciation Day

Thursday, August 8, 2024- Stakeholder Appreciation Day

Friday, August 9, 2024- Health Center Staff Appreciation Day

Saturday, August 10, 2024- Children's Health Day

To learn more about the mission and accomplishments of Illinois health centers, visit www.iphca.org. You can learn more about NHCW and view listing of events at www.healthcenterweek.org. #NHCW24

About Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) – IPHCA is a non-profit trade association that represents community health centers throughout the state. Illinois' 55 community health centers provide comprehensive, integrated primary care including medical, behavioral, and oral health care to roughly 1.5 million patients annually across more than 450 service sites in underserved rural, urban, and suburban communities.

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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