



Proclamation

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, community health centers have provided high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary and preventative care to all individuals, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay; and,

WHEREAS, health centers serve as the health care home for more than 27 million Americans through more than 10,000 delivery sites across the nation; one in every 12 people living in the United States depends on their services; and,

WHEREAS, health centers are a critical element of the health system, serving both rural and urban populations, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities; nationwide, health centers serve one in every six residents of rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, health centers are developing new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care – including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services – to meet the needs and challenges of their community; and,

WHEREAS, health centers nationally employ nearly 200,000 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, the health center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to access including geography, income, and insurance status, and in doing so, improves health care outcomes and reduces health care system costs by managing chronic conditions and keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, like hospital emergency rooms; and,

WHEREAS, health centers are on the front lines of major health care crises that our country faces, including providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats like the Zika virus; and,

WHEREAS, the demand for health centers continues to outpace growth, and expansion of health center programs will be essential to meet the needs of new patients, as existing health centers are already at capacity and many communities lack any primary care services at all; and,

WHEREAS, health centers remain committed to preserving and expanding access in the communities they serve, ensuring that the promise of coverage is translated into the reality of care; and,

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's health centers, their dedicated staff, board members, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago. During this National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's health centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 12-18, 2018, as NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK in Illinois, and encourage everyone to visit their local health center and celebrate the important partnership between America's 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-FIFTH day of JULY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
EIGHTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundredth.*

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR