WHEREAS, community health centers have served as a safety net for the most vulnerable in our State for over 50 years, while continuing to innovate and drive savings for public budgets; and

WHEREAS, health centers have been leaders in providing integrated care, bringing together medical, oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy, and other critical services under one roof; and

WHEREAS, health centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each health center are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, health centers nationally employ nearly 200,000 people who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat patients in over 10,000 communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the 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 health care outcomes and reduces health care system costs; and

WHEREAS, health centers are on the front lines of emerging health care crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's nearly 1,400 health center organizations with over 10,400 service delivery sites, their dedicated staff, board members, patients and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, during National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Health Centers, and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of America's health care system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 12-18, 2018, as

Health Center Week

I encourage all Americans to take part in this week by visiting their local health center and celebrating the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve

Signed this 1st day of June, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee