

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK August 12 – 18, 2018

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, America's community health centers have delivered high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary and preventative care to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, health centers are located in medically underserved areas and are locally controlled by patient-majority boards, making each health center responsive to the needs of the specific community it serves; and

WHEREAS, the country's more than 9,000 health centers serve as a health care home for more than 24 million individuals, or one in every fourteen people living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, health centers offer patient-focused, coordinated health care – preventive and primary care that families and individuals need, where and when they need it; and

WHEREAS, health centers employ more than 11,200 physicians and more than 9,000 nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives, along with social workers, case managers, and community health workers, as part of a multi-disciplinary clinical team designed to treat the whole patient, coordinating care and managing chronic disease, while reducing unnecessary and wasteful use of health resources; and

WHEREAS, as locally owned and operated small businesses, health centers serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by creating jobs and generating billions of dollars in combined economic impact in some of the country's most economically deprived communities; 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; and

WHEREAS, health centers remain committed to preserving and expanding access to the health care homes 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 staff, board members, and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the program since its creation over 50 years ago.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim August 12 – 18, 2018, as NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK. I urge all Pennsylvanians to visit their local health center and celebrate the important partnership between America's health centers and the communities they serve.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this thirtieth day of July two thousand eighteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-third.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor