

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 25-251

**PROCLAIM AUGUST 3-9, 2025, AS NATIONAL HEALTH)
CENTER WEEK IN THE COUNTY OF FRESNO)**

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

WHEREAS, as the country's largest primary care network, Community Health Centers are the health care home for over 32.5 million Americans in over 16,000 communities across the country. One in every ten people in the United States receives care at a Community Health Center; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are a critical element of the nation's health system, serving rural, suburban, island, frontier, and urban populations often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Community Health Centers serve one in every five residents of rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are responding to the chronic disease epidemic by expanding access to primary care and developing new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, nutrition, and pharmacy services, to provide comprehensive care and wellness, thereby allowing each patient to thrive. Community Health Centers have more than doubled their behavioral health workforce in the last decade to meet Americans' growing need for behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring patients are engaged in their health care decisions. Community Health Centers are locally owned-and-operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$118 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, Community Health Centers support more than 650,000 direct and indirect jobs, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, licensed family therapists, and certified nurse-midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient. Community 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. Community Health Centers operate over 1,000 mobile units, providing accessible health services in hundreds of rural and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Community Health Centers provided more than 3.6 million cancer screenings and helped 65% of patients control their hypertension and 71% of their patients control their diabetes; and

WHEREAS, locally, United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley exemplify the mission and impact of Community Health Centers, serving thousands of patients across Central California with culturally competent, comprehensive care that meets the unique needs of the region's rural and underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, annually, the National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate and honor the dedicated staff, board members, patients, and all those responsible for contributing to Community Health Centers' continued success and growth across America since the first health centers opened their doors nearly 60 years ago; and

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

///

