

WHEREAS; community health centers across the United States—including the 17 community health centers in Wisconsin—have provided underserved communities with high-quality, affordable, and comprehensive primary and preventive healthcare for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS; nearly 30 million Americans in over 14,000 communities throughout our country receive healthcare at community health centers, which means that approximately one in every 11 people in the United States is served by a community health center, including one in eight kids, one in five uninsured individuals, and one in three people in poverty; and

WHEREAS; over 270,000 Wisconsinites, representing every county in our state, were served by Wisconsin community health centers in 2020, including one of every nine Medicaid recipients; and

WHEREAS; community health centers play a critical role in filling the gaps in traditional care networks and are constantly developing new ways to integrate services beyond primary care—including oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy services, treatment for substance use disorders, school-based care, and services for special populations including agricultural workers, individuals experiencing homelessness, and veterans—to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and

WHEREAS; governed by patient-majority boards, community health centers ensure that the individuals they serve are engaged in their own healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS; the community health center model continues to prove effective in helping folks overcome barriers to healthcare access—such as geography, income, and insurance status—and reduces overall costs of care by helping to manage patients' chronic conditions and keep them out of costlier healthcare settings; and

WHEREAS; community health centers also served as beacons of essential resources and support in testing, treatment, and recovery throughout the COVID-19 emergency and during recovery from the pandemic, and will undoubtedly continue to offer reliable, affordable, and high-quality care against the virus in our nation's most vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS; National Health Center Week provides all Wisconsinites and all Americans with the opportunity to celebrate our nation's more than 1,400 health center organizations, over 13,500 service delivery sites, and the dedicated staff, board members, and patients who are responsible for their continued growth and success; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association in celebrating our nation's community health centers and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of our healthcare system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 7 through 13 2022 as

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 22nd day of July 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State