

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

WHEREAS; community health centers are where 30 million Americans in over 14,000 communities across our nation receive healthcare, which means that approximately one in every 12 people in the United States is served by a community health center, including one in every five residents of rural areas; and

WHEREAS; in fact, 300,000 Wisconsinites, representing every single county in our state, were served by community health centers in 2019; and

WHEREAS; community health centers are a critical element of our nation's health system, filling gaps in traditional care networks and constantly developing new ways to integrate services beyond primary care—including oral health, behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, school-based care, and pharmacy services—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 as locally owned and operated small businesses, they are often also drivers of local economies; 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; our nation's community health centers are on the front lines of emerging healthcare crises, providing access to care for veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS; community health centers have also served as beacons of essential resources and support in testing, treatment, and recovery throughout the COVID-19 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 12,000 service delivery sites, and the dedicated staff, board members, and patients who are responsible for their continued growth and success over the past half decade; and

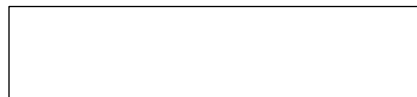
WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association in celebrating our nation's community health centers and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of our healthcare system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 8 – 14, 2021, 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 2nd day of July 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State