



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable health care in our nation's underserved communities, demonstrating that locally governed healthcare can improve lives while lowering costs and one in every fourteen people living in the United States looks to a community health center for their care; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers provide high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary and preventive care, including integrated medical, oral, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to all individuals regardless of insurance status or ability to pay; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers are locally operated non-profits, controlled by patient-majority boards that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating billions of dollars in combined economic impact and creating jobs in some of the country's most economically deprived communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers save the entire health system approximately \$24 billion annually by managing chronic conditions and keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, like hospital emergency rooms; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers have worked tirelessly to grow the nation's primary care infrastructure to meet the pressing need for access to care, yet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 17.3% of Americans (or more than 55 million people) still did not have a regular place to go for healthcare in 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** The demand for Health Centers continues to outpace growth, and expansion of health centers' capacity and reach will be essential to meet the needs of these new patients, as existing Health Centers are already at capacity and many communities lack any primary care services at all; and
- WHEREAS,** National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's Health Centers, their dedicated staff, board members, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago. During this National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Health Centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim August 13-19, 2017, as National Health Center Week. I encourage every resident to visit Golden Valley Health Centers and celebrate the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*