



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on America's health care system. Locally Golden Valley Health Centers has been serving our communities since 1972; and
- WHEREAS,** As the country's largest primary care network, Health Centers are the health care home for 27 million Americans in over 10,000 communities across the nation. One in every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a community health center; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers are a critical element of the health system, serving both rural and urban populations, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Health Centers serve one in every six residents of rural areas; and
- WHEREAS,** Every day, Health Centers develop new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each Health Center are engaged in their own health care decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$45.6 billion in economic impact in some of the country's most economically deprived communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Health Centers are on the front lines of emerging health care crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, homeless communities, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim August 12-18, 2018, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of August.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*