



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.

WHEREAS, As the country's largest primary care network, Health Centers are the health care home for 28 million Americans in over 11,000 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 communities, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Health Centers serve one in every five 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 \$54.6 billion in economic activity in some of the country's most economically deprived communities; and

WHEREAS, Health Centers reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients chronic conditions, which keeps them out of costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2019, 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 5th day of August.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced