



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** For over 50 years, Community Health Centers continue to make a significant impact on America's health care system by providing high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's most underserved communities; and
- WHEREAS,** As the country's largest primary care network, Community Health Centers are the health care home for 30 million Americans in over 14,000 communities across the nation. One in every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a Community Health Center; and
- WHEREAS,** Community 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, Community Health Centers serve one in every five residents of rural areas; and
- WHEREAS,** Every day, Community Health Centers develop new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, pharmacy, and other specialty services, including telehealth modalities to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Community 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,** Community 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,** Community Health Centers are on the front lines responding to 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, such as COVID19 in 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** During National Health Center Week, we recognize the more than 236,000 people employed by Community Health Centers nationally, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and other clinical staff who work as part of multi-disciplinary and patient-centered clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim August 9-15, 2020, 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 3rd day of August.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced