

Proclamation

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK 2024

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's medically 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, Community Health Centers are the health care home for over 31.5 million Americans in over 15,000 communities across the country. One in every eleven people in the United States gets their care at a Community Health Center.

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are a critical element of the health system, serving rural, suburban, island, frontier, and urban populations 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.

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers serve as beacons of essential resources and support in the face of disasters and pandemics and will continue to respond quickly to care for America's most vulnerable and underserved communities.

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, and pharmacy services, to provide comprehensive care, allowing each community member to thrive. Health centers have more than doubled their behavioral health workforce in the last decade to meet Americans' growing need for behavioral health services.

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$85 billion in economic activity and more than \$37 billion in labor income in some of the country's most economically distressed communities.

WHEREAS, Piedmont Health, which has been serving the community for nearly 50 years, was founded by a group of health care professionals at UNC Chapel Hill who recognized the need for accessible medical services for those who weren't receiving adequate care.

WHEREAS, Piedmont Health's vision is a healthy community in which all people have timely access to quality health care.

WHEREAS, by consistently following and demonstrating the core principles of shared commitment, collaboration, open communication, inclusion, and integrity amongst their patients and their care team, Piedmont Health supports the people of our community in a compassionate, supportive way.

WHEREAS, Piedmont Health, provides comprehensive health care and supportive services, accepts most insurance plans, and offers adjustable fees based on ability-to-pay.

WHEREAS, Piedmont Health reduces overall costs of care by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them out of more expensive healthcare settings like hospital emergency rooms.

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate America's more than 1,400 Community Health Center organizations with over 15,000 service delivery sites, including over 3,600 schools. We honor their dedicated staff, board members, patients, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago.

WHEREAS, during National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Community Health Centers, and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of America's health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, hereby proclaim August 4th-10th, 2024 as "National Health Center Week" in the Town of Carrboro, and I encourage all residents to participate in this week by visiting Piedmont Health and celebrating this vital partnership between America's Community Health Centers and the communities they serve.

This, the 10th day of August 2024.