

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

Senators Chang, Bayer, Santana and Geiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize August 8-14, 2021, as National
2 Health Center Week.

3 Whereas, For over 50 years, community health centers have
4 provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive, primary and
5 preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities,
6 delivering value to, and having a significant impact on, America's
7 health care system; and

8 Whereas, As the country's largest primary care network,
9 community health centers are the health care home for 30 million
10 Americans in over 14,000 communities across the nation. One in
11 every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a

1 community health center; and

2 Whereas, Community health centers are a critical element of
3 the health system, serving both rural and urban communities, and
4 often providing the only accessible and dependable source of
5 primary care in their communities. Nationwide, community health
6 centers serve one in every five residents of rural areas; and

7 Whereas, They are also beacons of essential resources and
8 support in the testing and treatment during the coronavirus
9 pandemic, and will continue to offer reliable, affordable, high-
10 quality care for America's most vulnerable and underserved
11 communities; and

12 Whereas, Every day, community health centers develop new
13 approaches to the integration of a wide range of services beyond
14 primary care including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and
15 pharmacy services in order to meet the needs and challenges of
16 their communities; and

17 Whereas, Community health centers are governed by patient-
18 majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each health center
19 are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

20 Whereas, They are also locally owned and operated small
21 businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to
22 power local economies by generating \$63.4 billion in economic
23 activity in some of the country's most economically-deprived
24 communities; and

25 Whereas, Nationally, community health centers employ more than
26 253,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners,
27 physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part
28 of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole
29 patient; and

1 Whereas, The community health center model continues to prove
2 as an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access,
3 including geography, income and insurance status, the improvement
4 of health care outcomes, and a reduction in health care system
5 costs; and

6 Whereas, Community health centers reduce overall costs of care
7 by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, keeping them out of
8 costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

9 Whereas, They are always on the front lines of emerging health
10 care crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans,
11 addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health
12 threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

13 Whereas, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to
14 celebrate over 1,400 health center organizations in the United
15 States with over 12,000 service delivery sites, along with their
16 dedicated staff, board members, patients, and those responsible for
17 their continued success and growth; and

18 Whereas, During National Health Center Week, we honor the
19 legacy of America's community health centers and their vital role
20 in shaping the past, present, and future of our health care system;
21 now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the Senate, That we recognize August 8-14, 2021,
23 as National Health Center Week. We encourage all Americans to
24 participate by visiting their local health center and celebrating
25 the important partnership between America's community health
26 centers and the communities they serve.