



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, for more than 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's health centers serve as the health care home for more than 425,000 individuals per year across more than 200 service delivery sites; and

**WHEREAS**, the health center model addresses barriers to health care access, including geography, income, and insurance status -- improving health outcomes and reducing health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, health centers are governed by patient-majority boards and integrate services such as oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to meet the needs of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, health centers in Tennessee are locally owned and operated small businesses that help power local economies by generating \$557 million in economic impact and employing more than 2,800 people; and

**WHEREAS**, health centers address 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; and

**WHEREAS**, health centers serve on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing COVID-19 testing and treatment in underserved urban and rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, National Health Center Week honors America's more than 1,400 health center organizations, their dedicated staffs, board members, patients, and those who lost their lives during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim the week of August 9-15, 2020 as

*Health Center Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this thirteenth day of July, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

