



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, for more than fifty 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 434,000 individuals per year across more than 200 service delivery sites; and

WHEREAS, health centers serve both rural and urban communities, often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities; 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 our state's economy by generating \$657 million in economic activity and employing more than 3,000 people; and

WHEREAS, health centers serve as essential resources in testing, treatment, and vaccination in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to offer reliable, affordable, high-quality care during the pandemic for America's most vulnerable and underserved communities; 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; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week honors America's more than 1,400 health center organizations, their dedicated staffs, board members, and patients;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim the week of August 8 – August 14, 2021, 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 seventh day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Hergett".

Secretary of State

