



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

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

WHEREAS, Tennessee's health centers serve as the health care home for more than 415,000 patients per year across sites in 68 of the state's counties; and

WHEREAS, health centers serve both rural and urban communities in Tennessee, 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 behavioral health, dental, vision, 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 address barriers to health care access - including geography, income, and insurance status - improving health outcomes and reducing costs; 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 crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week honors America's 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 7-13, 2022, 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 nineteenth day of July, 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State

