



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 437,000 patients per year across sites in 72 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 contribute to our state's economy; 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 responding to public health threats in the wake of pandemics and 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 6-12, 2023, 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 August, 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Ju Hargrett

Secretary of State