



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 underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's health centers serve as the health care home for more than 425,000 patients per year across sites in 70 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 these communities; and

WHEREAS, health centers are governed by patient-majority boards, and integrated services such as behavioral health, dental, vision, and pharmacy services, are often added 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 the emerging health care crises, providing access to care for Tennessee's veterans, addressing the opioid crisis, and responding to public health threats in the wake of pandemics and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, Health Center Week in Tennessee honors the health center organizations in our state, their dedicated staff, board members, and patients;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of August 4-10, 2024, 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 August 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Mangett

Secretary of State