



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS WEEK

- WHEREAS:** Federally Qualified Health Centers in Georgia provide high quality primary and preventative health care to more than 700,000 people in the State of Georgia, including more than 203,000 Medicaid recipients and 189,000 uninsured patients, reducing medical costs for uninsured patients by \$161 million; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Health Centers contribute more than \$1 billion per year to Georgia's economy through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$163 million in household income and 4,434 Georgia jobs; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Health Centers recruit and retain more than 450 health care professionals where they are most needed and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services, behavioral health services, prescription medicines, health education, nutrition counseling, translation services, community outreach, transportation, and other support programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Health Centers have a track record spanning more than five decades of controlling costs, documented in several studies which show that rates of costly emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among Community Health Center patients than patients of other providers; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Health Centers work in partnership with other health care providers, local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related organizations to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the health status of the community; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia's Community Health Centers and their state organization, the Georgia Primary Care Association, have worked diligently to increase the number of Community Health Centers in Georgia, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality improvement, the implementation of new health care initiatives such as integration of medical services and behavioral health, and utilization of the latest technology to improve operations and delivery of services to more Georgians; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Health Centers have made valuable contributions in expanding access to health care, have an outstanding record of service, and have shown dedication to improving health care and the health status of all Georgians; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2024, as COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22nd day of July in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



B. Kemp
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry
CHIEF OF STAFF