



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### HEALTH CENTER WEEK

- WHEREAS:** Federally qualified health centers in Georgia, located in 225 medically underserved communities, provide high-quality primary and preventative health care to more than 600,000 Georgians, comprising of more than 225,000 Medicaid recipients and 235,000 uninsured or underinsured individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** Community health centers contribute more than \$300 million per year to Georgia's economy, including \$142 million in household income and 3,730 jobs in Georgia, saving the state's Medicaid program upwards of twelve to thirty-three percent in annual spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and
- WHEREAS:** Community health centers recruit and retain more than 330 health care professionals where they are needed most, offering 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 of controlling costs that spans more than four decades. This is documented in several studies which show that the rates of costly emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center patients than patients of other providers; and
- WHEREAS:** Community health centers work with health care providers, local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health-related organizations to maximize resources in their mission to improve the community's health status; and
- WHEREAS:** Community health centers have spearheaded the establishment of patient-centered medical homes that provide access to quality care for patients; and
- WHEREAS:** Under the guidance of the Georgia Primary Care Association, community health centers across Georgia have worked to increase the number of centers in our state and nation, taking the lead in efforts to serve underserved communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Community health centers deserve to be commended for their valuable contributions to expanded health care access; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2019 as HEALTH CENTER WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. P. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Trinity K. Flemig*

CHIEF OF STAFF