



Proclamation

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care to our nation's underserved communities; delivering value to, and having a significant impact on America's health care system; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are the health care home for 591,723 North Carolinians and nationwide serve one in every five residents of rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are a critical element of the health system, serving both rural and urban communities, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers serve as beacons of essential resources and support in testing and treatment in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic, and will continue to offer reliable, affordable, high-quality care against COVID-19 for America's most vulnerable and underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, every day, Community Health Centers develop new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies. Every \$1 in federal investments generates \$3.34 in economic activity across North Carolina. In total, health centers in North Carolina and nationally community health centers deliver \$940 million in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, The Community Health Centers model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to health care access, including geography, income and insurance status - improving health care outcomes and reducing health care system costs; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate North Carolina's 42 health center organizations with over 270 service delivery sites, their dedicated staff, board members, patients and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Community Health Centers, and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of America's health care system.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim **August 9 -15, 2020** as **National Health Center Week**. I encourage all Americans to take part in this week by visiting their local Health Center and celebrating the important partnership between America's Community Health Centers and the communities they serve.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 11th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk