

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING AUGUST 7-13, 2023 AS NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

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

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers serve as beacons of essential resources and support in the face of disasters and pandemics and will continue to respond quickly to care for America's most vulnerable and underserved communities. Community Health Centers have administered over 22 million COVID-19 tests and over 24 million vaccines to date; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that patients are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Community Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income, and insurance status – improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare system costs; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them out of more expensive healthcare settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are on the front lines of emerging health care crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters. Community Health Centers operate close to 1,000 mobile units, providing accessible health services in hundreds of rural and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate America's more than 1,400 Community Health Center organizations with over 14,000 service delivery sites, including over 3,000 schools, and we honor 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.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Zach Friend, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim August 6-12, 2023, as National Health Center Week, and encourage all Santa Cruz County residents 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.



Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

August 1, 2023

Date