



Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, community health centers have provided high quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventative health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on America's health care system; and

WHEREAS, as the country's largest primary care network, health centers now serve as the health care home for 27 million Americans in over 10,000 delivery sites across the nation. One in every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a community health center; and

WHEREAS, health centers in Alabama serve as the health home for over 347,694 Alabamians through over 135 delivery sites across the state; health centers also serve as critical economic engines helping to power local economies; and

WHEREAS, every day, health centers are developing 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, the health center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income and insurance status, and in doing so, improves health care outcomes and reduces health care system costs; and

WHEREAS, health centers reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients' chronic conditions which keeps them out of costlier health care settings, like hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize Alabama's health centers, their dedicated staff, board members and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago. During the National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of Alabama's health centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim August 12th through August 18th, 2018, as

National Health Center Week

in the State of Alabama and encourage all Alabamians to take part in this week by visiting their local health center and celebrating the important partnership between Alabama's health centers and the communities they serve.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 15th day of August 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor