



Proclamation

WHEREAS: for over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive 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, Community Health Centers are the health care home for 31.5 million Americans in over 15,000 communities across the nation. One in every eleven people in the United States gets their care in a Community Health Center; 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; 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 provide comprehensive care, allowing each community member to thrive. Health centers have more than doubled their behavioral health workforce in the last decade to meet Americans' growing need for behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS: Community Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$85 billion in economic activity and more than \$37 billion in labor income in some of the country's most economically-deprived communities; and

WHEREAS: Community Health Centers nationally employ more than 500,000 direct and indirect jobs, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, licensed family therapist, and certified nurse-midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; 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, responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters and operates over 900 mobile units; 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, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia, and the Gastonia City Council do hereby proclaim **August 4 - 10, 2024 as National Health Center Week** and 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 16th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk