

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK

AUGUST 4-11, 2024

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, and 1 in every 11 people in the United States gets their care in a community health center; 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 nationwide, health centers serve 1 in every 5 residents of rural areas; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) provide access to affordable, high-quality health care for all North Dakotans, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay; and in doing so, they improve health care outcomes and reduce health care system costs; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, North Dakota's five FQHCs provided patient-centered, comprehensive care to more than 36,000 individuals at 22 sites located in 20 communities across the state; and

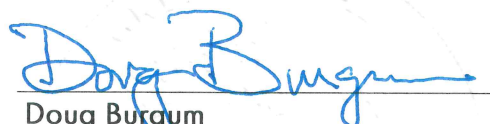
WHEREAS, North Dakota's FQHCs are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines for the communities they serve, generating millions of dollars in combined economic impact and employing over 360 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and dentists; and


WHEREAS, the community health center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to health care access, including geography, income and insurance status, to improve health care outcomes and help health centers reduce overall health care costs by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them out of costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize North Dakota's community health centers, their dedicated staff, board members, patients and all those responsible for their continued success and growth, and to showcase the integral role they play in the lives of their patients and in the communities they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
August 4-11, 2024, **COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK** in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE