

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: For 50 years, America's Community Health Centers have provided high quality, cost effective and accessible primary and preventive care to all individuals regardless of insurance status or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS: Community Health Centers strive to improve the general quality of life of the citizens of the State of Arkansas through the provision of primary medical, dental and behavioral healthcare across the State through a network of over 100 sites organized through twelve Community Health Centers; and

WHEREAS: The Centers are located in medically underserved areas and are locally controlled by patient-majority boards, making each responsive to the needs of the specific community it serves; and

WHEREAS: Health Centers nationwide employ more than 11,300 physicians and more than 8,400 nurse practitioners, physician assistants and certified nurse midwives as part of a multi-disciplinary clinical team designed to treat the whole patient, coordinating care and managing chronic disease, at the same time reducing unnecessary, avoidable and wasteful use of health resources; and

WHEREAS: The Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to 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 save the entire health system approximately \$24 billion annually by managing chronic conditions and keeping patients out of costlier health care settings; and

WHEREAS: The Centers have worked tirelessly to grow the nation's primary care infrastructure to meet the pressing needs of Americans who still lack access to primary care services, a number that exceeds 62 million nationwide; and

WHEREAS: Health Centers remain committed to preserving and expanding access in the communities they serve, ensuring that the promise of coverage is translated into the reality of care;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim August 9 through August 15, 2015, as

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I urge all citizens to recognize the Centers, their dedicated staff, board members and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the program since its creation 50 years ago.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 1st day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State