

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.146

Reps. VanWoerkom, Aiyash, Brabec, Breen, Brixie, Cavanagh, Clemente, Ellison, Haadsma, Hood, Jones, Kuppa, Morse, Rogers, Sabo, Sneller, Weiss and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare August 8-14, 2021, as Community Health
2 Center Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, For over 50 years, Community health centers have
4 provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and
5 preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities,
6 delivering value to and having a significant impact on America's
7 health care system; and

8 Whereas, As the country's largest primary care network,
9 community health centers are the health care home for 30 million
10 Americans in over 134,000 communities across the nation. One in

1 every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a
2 community health center; and

3 Whereas, Community health centers are a critical element of
4 the health system, serving both rural and urban communities, and
5 often providing the only accessible and dependable source of
6 primary care in their communities. Nationwide, community health
7 centers serve one in every five residents of rural areas; and

8 Whereas, Community health centers serve as beacons of
9 essential resources and support in testing and treatment in the
10 face of the global coronavirus pandemic and will continue to offer
11 reliable, affordable, high-quality care against COVID-19 for
12 America's most vulnerable and underserved communities; and

13 Whereas, Every day, community health centers develop new
14 approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary
15 care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and
16 pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their
17 communities; and

18 Whereas, Community health centers are governed by patient-
19 majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each health center
20 are engaged in their own health care decisions;

21 Whereas, Community health centers are locally owned and
22 operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines,
23 helping to power local economies by generating \$63,454.6 billion in
24 economic activity in some of the country's most economically-
25 deprived communities; and

26 Whereas, Community health centers nationally employ more than
27 2,503,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners,
28 physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part
29 of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole

1 patient; and

2 Whereas, The community health center model continues to prove
3 an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access,
4 including geography, income and insurance status - improving health
5 care outcomes and reducing health care system costs; and

6 Whereas, Community health centers reduce overall costs of care
7 by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them
8 out of costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms;

9 Whereas, Community health centers are on the front lines of
10 emerging health care crises, providing access to care for our
11 nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding
12 to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

13 Whereas, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to
14 celebrate America's over 1,400 health center organizations with
15 over 132,000 service delivery sites, their dedicated staff, board
16 members, patients and all those responsible for their continued
17 success and growth since the first health centers opened their
18 doors more than 50 years ago; and

19 Whereas, During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the
20 legacy of America's community health centers, and their vital role
21 in shaping the past, present, and future of America's health care
22 system; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
24 this legislative body declare August 8-14, 2021, as Community
25 Health Center Week in the state of Michigan. We encourage all
26 Americans to take part in this week by visiting their local health
27 center and celebrating the important partnership between America's
28 community health centers and the communities they serve.