

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 146

Rep. VanWoerkom 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
11 every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a
12 community health center; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 Whereas, Community health centers nationally employ more than
25 2,503,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners,
26 physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part
27 of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole
28 patient; and

29 Whereas, The community health center model continues to prove

1 an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access,
2 including geography, income and insurance status - improving health
3 care outcomes and reducing health care system costs; and

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

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

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

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

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