

**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**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**, the country's largest primary care network, health centers are the health care home for 30 million Americans across the nation. One in every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a health center; and

**WHEREAS**, every day, health centers are developing new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services to meet the needs and challenges of their community; and

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

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, South Dakota's five FQHCs provided patient-centered, comprehensive care to over 80,000 individuals at 43 sites located in 33 communities across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota's health centers serve as critical economic engines for the communities they serve, generating millions of dollars in combined economic impact and employing more than 630 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and dentists; and

**WHEREAS**, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize South Dakota's 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, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of August 8, 2021, as

**HEALTH CENTER WEEK**

in South Dakota.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



Kristi Noem  
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Steven J. Barnett  
Secretary of State