

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, for sixty years, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in medically underserved communities, having a significant impact on America's health care system; and,

Whereas, as the country's largest primary care network, health centers are the health care home for over 32.5 million Americans in over 15,000 communities across the country. One in ten people in the United States get their care at a health center; and,

Whereas, health centers provide access to affordable, high-quality health care for all South Dakotans, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. In 2024, South Dakota's six FQHCs provided care to more than 126,500 individuals at 42 sites in 30 communities; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's health centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines for the communities they serve, generating over 230 million dollars in combined economic impact and employing over 936 people in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, every day, health centers develop new approaches to integrating a wide range of services into primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to provide comprehensive care. This allows each community member to thrive; and,

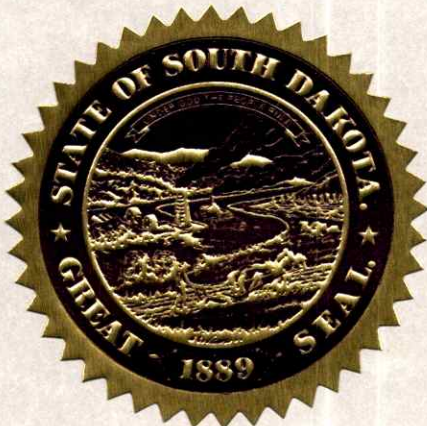
Whereas, the health center model continues to prove to be an effective means of overcoming barriers to health care access, including geography, income, and insurance status, leading to improved health outcomes and reduced health care system costs; and,

Whereas, Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate South Dakota's health centers, their dedicated staff, board members, patients, and the integral role health centers play in the communities they serve:

Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 3, 2025, 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 Tenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Larry Rhoden
Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:

Monae L. Johnson
Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State