

*Kenai Peninsula Borough
Alaska
Proclamation*

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: As the country's largest primary care network, Health Centers are the health care home for 27 million Americans in over 10,000 communities across the nation. One in every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a community health center; and

Whereas: Health Centers are a critical element of the health system, serving both rural and urban populations, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Health Centers serve one in every six residents of rural areas; and

Whereas: Every day, Health Centers develop 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 communities; and

Whereas: Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each Health Center are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

Whereas: Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$45.6 billion in economic impact in some of the country's most economically deprived communities; and

Whereas: Health Centers nationally employ more than 200,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and

Whereas: The Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare 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 reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients chronic conditions, which keeps them out of costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

Whereas: Health Centers are on the front lines of emerging health care crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

Whereas: National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's nearly 1,400 health center organizations with over 10,400 service delivery sites, their dedicated staff, board members, patients and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago; and

Whereas: During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Health Centers, and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of America's health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Pierce, Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, do hereby proclaim August 12-18, 2018, as:

National Health Center Week

and encourage all Americans to take part in this week by visiting their local Health Center and celebrating the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.



Charlie Pierce, Mayor