

# Kenai Peninsula Borough Alaska Proclamation

**Whereas**, for 50 years, America's Community Health Centers have provided high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary and preventative care to all individuals regardless of insurance status or ability to pay and;

**Whereas**, Health Centers serve as the health care home for over 23 million Americans through more than 9,000 delivery sites across the nation. One in every fifteen people living in the United States depends on their services and;

**Whereas**, Health Centers are located in medically underserved areas and locally controlled by patient-majority boards, making each Health Center responsive to the needs of the specific community it serves and;

**Whereas**, locally owned and operated small businesses, Health Centers serve as critical economic engines helping to power local economies by generating billions of dollars in combined economic impact and creating jobs in some of the country's most economically deprived communities and;

**Whereas**, Health Centers employ more than 11,300 physicians and more than 8,400 nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives as part of a multi-disciplinary clinical team designed to treat the whole patient, coordinating care and managing chronic disease, at the same time reducing unnecessary, avoidable and wasteful use of health resources and;

**Whereas**, The Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to 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 save the entire health system approximately \$24 billion annually by managing chronic conditions and keeping patients out of costlier health care settings and;

**Whereas**, Health Centers have worked tirelessly to grow the nation's primary care infrastructure to meet the pressing needs of Americans who still lack access to primary care services, a number that exceeds 62 million nationwide and;

**Whereas**, the demand for Health Centers continues to outpace growth and expansion of the program will be essential to meet the needs of these new patients, as existing Health Centers are already at capacity and many communities lack any primary care services at all and;

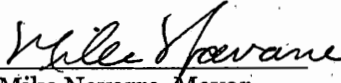
**Whereas**, Health Centers remain committed to preserving and expanding access in the communities they serve, ensuring that the promise of coverage is translated into the reality of care and;

**Whereas**, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's Health Centers, their dedicated staff, board members, and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the program since its creation 50 years ago. During this National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Health Centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system and;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mike Navarre, Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough do hereby proclaim August 9-15, 2015, as:

## National Health Center Week

and I encourage everyone to visit their local Health Center and celebrate the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.

  
Mike Navarre, Mayor  
Kenai Peninsula Borough

