

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 130

Reps. Brenda Carter, Bezotte, Bierlein, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Haadsma, Koleszar, Morse, Rheingans and Weiss offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare August 6-12, 2023, as National 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 14,000 locations across the nation. One in every

1 eleven people in the United States gets their care in a community  
2 health center; and

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

8       Whereas, Community health centers serve as beacons of  
9 essential resources and support in the face of disasters and  
10 pandemics and will continue to respond quickly to care for  
11 America's most vulnerable and underserved communities. Health  
12 centers have administered over 20 million COVID-19 tests and over  
13 22.2 million vaccines to date; and

14       Whereas, Every day, community health centers develop new  
15 approaches to the integration of a wide range of services beyond  
16 primary care including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and  
17 pharmacy services in order to meet the needs and challenges of  
18 their communities. Health centers have more than doubled their  
19 behavioral health workforce in the last decade to meet Americans'  
20 growing need for behavioral health services; and

21       Whereas, Community health centers are governed by patient-  
22 majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each health center  
23 are engaged in their own healthcare decisions; and

24       Whereas, They are also locally owned and operated small  
25 businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to  
26 power local economies by generating \$63 billion in economic  
27 activity in some of the country's most economically-challenged  
28 communities; and

29       Whereas, Community health centers nationally support more than

1 270,000 direct and indirect jobs, including physicians, nurse  
2 practitioners, physician assistants, licensed family therapists,  
3 and certified nurse-midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary  
4 clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and

5       Whereas, The community health center model continues to prove  
6 as an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access,  
7 including geography, income, and insurance status, the improvement  
8 of healthcare outcomes, and a reduction in healthcare system costs;  
9 and

10       Whereas, Community health centers reduce overall costs of care  
11 by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, keeping them out of  
12 costlier healthcare settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

13       Whereas, Community health centers are on the front lines of  
14 emerging healthcare crises, providing access to care for our  
15 nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding  
16 to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters. Almost  
17 500 health centers operate close to 1,000 mobile units, providing  
18 health services in hundreds of rural and urban communities; and

19       Whereas, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to  
20 celebrate over 1,400 health center organizations in the United  
21 States with over 14,000 service delivery sites, along with their  
22 dedicated staff, board members, patients, and those responsible for  
23 their continued success and growth; and

24       Whereas, During National Health Center Week, we honor the  
25 legacy of America's community health centers and their vital role  
26 in shaping the past, present, and future of our healthcare system;  
27 now, therefore, be it

28       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
29 this legislative body declare August 6-12, 2023, as National Health

1 Center Week in the state of Michigan. We encourage all Americans to  
2 participate by visiting their local health center and celebrating  
3 the important partnership between America's community health  
4 centers and the communities they serve.