

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 65

Senator Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize August 6-12, 2023, as National  
2 Health Center Week.

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 communities across the nation. One in  
11 every eleven people in the United States gets their care in a  
12 community health center; and

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

6           Whereas, Community health centers serve as beacons of  
7 essential resources and support in the face of disasters and  
8 pandemics. They continue to respond quickly to care for America's  
9 most vulnerable and underserved communities. To date, health  
10 centers have administered over 22 million COVID-19 tests and over  
11 24 million vaccines; and

12           Whereas, Every day, community health centers develop new  
13 approaches to the integration of a wide range of services beyond  
14 primary care including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and  
15 pharmacy services in order to meet the needs and challenges of  
16 their communities; and

17           Whereas, In the last decade, health centers have more than  
18 doubled their behavioral health workforce to meet Americans'  
19 growing need for behavioral health services; and

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

23           Whereas, They are locally owned and operated small businesses  
24 that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local  
25 economies by generating \$85 billion in economic activity in some of  
26 the country's most economically-deprived communities; and

27           Whereas, Nationally, community health centers support more  
28 than 500,000 direct and indirect jobs, including physicians, nurse  
29 practitioners, physician assistants, licensed family therapists,

1 and certified nurse-midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary  
2 clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and

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

8       Whereas, Community health centers reduce overall costs of care  
9 by helping manage chronic conditions, keeping patients out of  
10 costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

11       Whereas, Being on the front lines of emerging health care  
12 crises, community health centers provide access to care for our  
13 nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding  
14 to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

15       Whereas, Almost 500 health centers operate close to 1,000  
16 mobile units, providing health services in over hundreds of rural  
17 and urban communities; and

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

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

27       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
28 body recognize August 6-12, 2023, as National Health Center Week.  
29 We encourage all Americans to participate by visiting their local

- 1 health center and celebrate the important partnership between
- 2 America's community health centers and the communities they serve.