

RESOLUTION NO. 160580

Declaring August 7-13, 2016, as National Health Center Week.

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable health care in our nation's underserved communities, demonstrating that locally governed healthcare can improve lives while lowering costs; and

WHEREAS, Health Centers provide high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary and preventive care to all individuals regardless of insurance status or ability to pay and ; and

WHEREAS, Health Centers nationally employ nearly 170,000 people, including more than 11,200 physicians and more than 9,000 nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part of a multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and

WHEREAS, the Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of reducing healthcare disparities and 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 save the entire health system approximately \$24 billion annually by managing chronic conditions and keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, like hospital emergency rooms, thus these centers have worked tirelessly to grow the nation's primary care infrastructure to meet the pressing need for access to care; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize Health Centers, their dedicated staff, board members, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth. During this time, we celebrate the legacy of America's Health Centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare August 7-13, 2016, as National Health Center Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Rodgers Health with the Mayor and Council encouraging every citizen to visit their local Health Center and celebrate the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.
