

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 121

Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Health Center Week for the week beginning on August 18, 2002, to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2002

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, and Mr. HOLLINGS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Health Center Week for the week beginning on August 18, 2002, to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers.

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers (referred to in this concurrent resolution as “health centers”) are nonprofit, community-owned and community-operated health providers and are vital to the Nation’s communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 health centers serving 12,000,000 people at more than 4,000 health delivery sites, spanning urban and rural communities in all 50

States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas health centers have provided cost-effective, quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system, meeting escalating health needs, and reducing health disparities;

Whereas health centers provide care to 1 of every 9 uninsured Americans, 1 of every 8 low-income Americans, and 1 of every 10 rural Americans, and without health centers these Americans would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas health centers and other innovative programs in primary and preventive care reach out to 650,000 homeless persons and 700,000 farm workers;

Whereas health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas health centers increase the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced by between 10 and 40 percent;

Whereas health centers are built by community initiative;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money to empower communities to find partners and resources and to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants, on average, contribute 22 percent of a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, medicare, medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas health centers are community-oriented and patient-focused;

Whereas health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of communities by working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas health centers engage citizen participation and provide jobs for 50,000 community residents; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Community Health Center Week for the week beginning on August 18, 2002, would raise awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) there should be established a National Com-
4 munity Health Center Week for the week beginning
5 on August 18, 2002, to raise awareness of health
6 services provided by health centers; and

7 (2) the President should issue a proclamation
8 calling on the people of the United States and inter-

- 1 sted organizations to observe such a week with ap-
- 2 propriate programs and activities.

