H. Res. 289

In the House of Representatives, U.S., July 25, 2005.

- Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are nonprofit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;
- Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving more than 15,000,000 people in over 3,600 communities;
- Whereas such health centers are found in urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;
- Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-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;
- Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 7 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7 people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans, all of whom would otherwise lack access to health care;

- Whereas these health centers are engaged with other innovative programs in primary and preventive care to reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 farm workers;
- Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, transportation, translation, and enabling support services;
- Whereas these health centers increase the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;
- Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced over the past 4 years even as infant mortality rates across the country have risen;
- Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative, and run by the patients they serve;
- Whereas Federal grants provide seed money empowering communities to find partners and resources to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;
- Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 percent of such a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;
- Whereas there are more than 100 health centers that receive no Federal grant funding, yet continue to serve their communities regardless of their patients' ability to pay;
- Whereas health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of their communities, working together with schools, businesses, churches, community or-

ganizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

- Whereas health centers contribute to the health and wellbeing of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;
- Whereas health centers encourage citizen participation and provide jobs for nearly 100,000 community residents; and
- Whereas National Health Center Week raises awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of NationalHealth Center Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Attest:

Clerk.