

I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Health Center Week and commend Community Health Centers for their important role in America's health care system.

For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on, our health care system.

Today, Community Health Centers serve as primary care for more than 27 million Americans in rural and urban areas. Often, these Health Centers are the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. In Pennsylvania, Community Health Centers serve more than 800,000 patients at more than 300 sites every year. In Pittsburgh alone, there are seven different Health Center organizations that serve over 44,000 patients at 33 delivery sites, including mobile health clinics. These Health Centers provide access to a variety of primary care services such as vision, oral, and behavioral health, as well as preventative care services for chronic illnesses such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung disease, cancer, and HIV/AIDS.

Community Health Centers also help the American economy by generating \$24 billion in savings for our health care system annually. Their facilities offer care for patients outside of the emergency rooms and hospitals which

place a greater financial burden on our health care system. Health Centers also generate \$45.6 billion in economic impact in areas with slower economic growth and employ more than 200,000 physicians, nurses, and staff across the country.

Congress has spent a great part of the past year debating the future of our nation's health care system. Despite uncertainty about the Affordable Care Act and instability surrounding our health care markets, Community Health Centers have remained a core source of care for low-income Americans and underserved populations. It is with their help that we can make affordable, high-quality healthcare accessible for all Americans regardless of geography, income, and insurance status. It is also with their help that we will overcome our nation's most pressing health crises such as the opioid epidemic, public health threats, and care for veterans.

I encourage all Americans to observe National Health Center Week by visiting their local Health Centers, learning about their services, and thanking the Health Center staff in their communities.

I believe the best way to recognize National Health Center Week is to support full funding for Community Health Centers and to advocate for programs which help patients to access their services. I will continue to support Community Health Centers and I hope my colleagues will join me.

HONORING PENNGROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120 years of service that Penngrove Community Church has provided to Penngrove, California and our surrounding community.

The Penngrove Community Church started in 1897 when the Thompson brothers came to hold revival meetings. After conducting church meetings in the Eagle School building, a church was eventually built half a mile from Penngrove. In 1910, the church was moved closer to town and placed on its current site on Oak Street. In 1937, the church changed its denominational affiliation to Congregational Church and adopted the name it has today. In the 1950s, Penngrove Community Church was affiliated with the United Church of Christ and later, became the independent community church that it is today.

Penngrove Community Church has several local missions and remains deeply involved in our community. The Redwood Gospel Mission provides homeless shelters, facilitates food drives and holds school supply drives for children. The Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, which is affiliated with the Penngrove Community Church, serves students at Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. The church is also affiliated with Mt. Gilead Bible Camp and Conference Center. Penngrove Community Church is a member of City Ministries of Petaluma, a non-profit informal prayer group.

Penngrove Community Church is a host for Committee On The Shelterless, a nationally recognized program that provides living space for homeless families with children and helps them secure housing. The church holds an after school bible study at Penngrove School and holds an Annual Women's Tea and an Annual Aebleskiver Breakfast. They also assist with the Penngrove Social Firemen with an annual gift giving to needy families in the community. The church donates to Partners International Harvest of Hope, a mission to provide a practical solution to poverty in some of the poorest nations in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Penngrove Community Church is an important pillar in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor its 120th anniversary here today.