

House Resolution

No. 53

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

August 6, 2014

House Resolution No. 53—Relative to National Health Center Week.

1 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers are at the
2 core of the nation’s health care safety net, serving anyone and
3 everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of ability to
4 pay, and they are the medical homes for more than 22 million
5 needy and uninsured patients; and

6 WHEREAS, According to multiple government, academic, and
7 private studies, community clinics and health centers have proven
8 to be the most cost-effective health care providers in the field,
9 saving nearly \$24 billion annually by keeping patients out of
10 costlier health care settings, such as emergency rooms; and

11 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers are private,
12 nonprofit corporations. The majority of their boards of directors,
13 by law, must be their patients and consumers, and their services
14 are funded primarily through public programs such as Medicaid,
15 federal grants, and state initiatives; and

16 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers in California
17 and throughout the nation have led the movement for a fair and
18 equitable health care system, treating medically underserved
19 populations in medically underserved areas by reaching into the
20 inner city and the most rural and most geographically isolated
21 communities; and

22 WHEREAS, In California, more than five million low-income
23 families, children, seniors, women, non-English speakers, people
24 of color, and homeless individuals currently receive comprehensive

1 primary care services at nearly 1,000 community clinics and health
2 centers throughout the state; and

3 WHEREAS, Primary care at California community clinics and
4 health centers involves a wide range of services, including
5 preventive care, chronic disease management, well child, dental,
6 pharmaceutical, immunization, mental health, substance abuse,
7 breast cancer, nutrition, family planning, and pregnancy-related
8 services, all of which are provided with particular sensitivity to
9 language and cultural competency; and

10 WHEREAS, California's community clinics and health centers
11 have the major responsibility to provide health care services to the
12 state's most disadvantaged families and individuals, are at the
13 forefront in implementing the national Patient Protection and
14 Affordable Care Act, and are preparing to serve the over three
15 million Californians newly enrolled in Medi-Cal and Covered
16 California under the act, as well as the two to three million persons
17 who will remain uninsured; and

18 WHEREAS, California's community clinics and health centers
19 have played a critical role in the outreach, education, and
20 enrollment for Covered California and Medi-Cal, accounting for
21 170 certified enrollment entities and employing one in three
22 certified enrollment counselors in the state; and

23 WHEREAS, California's community clinics and health centers
24 account for 55 percent of assisted Covered California and Medi-Cal
25 enrollments; and

26 WHEREAS, California's and the nation's community clinics
27 and health centers deserve to be recognized and acknowledged for
28 their valuable services to their communities and the state, their
29 cost-effective delivery of primary health care services to the most
30 vulnerable populations, and their leadership in working for fair
31 and equitable health care reform; and

32 WHEREAS, The federal government, many other states, and
33 local communities in all 50 states have observed and celebrated
34 an annual National Health Center Week for 30 years; now,
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
37 Assembly hereby joins in proclaiming the week of August 10 to
38 August 16, 2014, inclusive, as National Health Center Week in
39 California; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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