

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 116

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63—Relative to National Health Center Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 10, 2013.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 63, Hernandez. National Health Center Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of August 11 through August 17, 2013, as National Health Center Week.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In California, more than five million low-income families, children, seniors, women, non-English speakers, people of color, and homeless individuals currently receive comprehensive primary care services at more than 900 community clinics and health centers throughout the state; and

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

WHEREAS, California's community clinics and health centers have the major responsibility for providing health care services to the state's most

disadvantaged families and individuals, will be at the forefront in implementing the national Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and are preparing to serve up to an additional 1.4 million newly eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries under the act, as well as the several million persons who will remain uninsured; and

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

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

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature joins in proclaiming the week of August 11 through August 17, 2013, as National Health Center Week; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature commends California's community clinics and health centers for their valuable contributions to the state, their communities, and the populations they serve and urges the Members of the Legislature to visit their local community clinics and health centers in observance of National Health Center Week; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.