

**Introduced by Senator Pan**

August 20, 2015

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Senate Resolution No. 44—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 are the medical homes for more than 23 million needy  
5 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 employ more  
17 than 11,300 physicians and 8,400 nurse practitioners, physician  
18 assistants, and certified nurse midwives as part of a  
19 multidisciplinary clinical team designed to treat the whole patient  
20 by coordinating care and managing chronic disease, while at the  
21 same time reducing unnecessary, avoidable, and wasteful use of  
22 health resources; and

23 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers in California  
24 and throughout the nation have led the movement for a fair and  
25 equitable health care system, treating medically underserved  
26 populations in medically underserved areas by reaching into the

1 inner city and the most rural and geographically isolated  
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, In California, more than five million low-income  
4 families, children, seniors, women, non-English speakers, people  
5 of color, and homeless individuals currently receive comprehensive  
6 primary care services at nearly 1,000 community clinics and health  
7 centers throughout the state; and

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity  
30 to recognize America's health centers, their dedicated staff and  
31 board members, and all those responsible for the continued success  
32 and growth of the program since its creation 50 years ago. During  
33 National Health Center Week, the legacy of America's health  
34 centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health  
35 care system is celebrated; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate  
37 hereby joins in proclaiming the week of August 9 to August 15,  
38 2015, inclusive, as National Health Center Week in California;  
39 and be it further

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

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