

**A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

WHEREAS, there is a significant number of citizens in the State of Mississippi who are currently medically underserved for a number of reasons, the most prominent of which include geographical isolation, financial barriers, and an insufficient number of health care providers; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are private, nonprofit corporations that provide high quality comprehensive primary health care to medically underserved people in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that Community Health Centers remain viable providers of primary health care throughout Mississippi by providing a host of support services, including transportation, translation, and other services; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have made great strides in the State of Mississippi health care system specifically by maintaining a high standard of accountability, demonstrating cost effectiveness, empowering communities to develop programs to meet their specific needs, strengthening communities to enhance opportunities for children and families, and providing health care services in accessible low-cost environments; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have also made a significant difference in the State of Mississippi health care system by improving access to quality health care provided by trained professionals in areas that had previously been unserved or underserved, promoting individual responsibility and health awareness in the communities, and offering primary preventive health care of the highest quality to reduce preventable deaths, costly disabilities, and communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to support implementation of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Mississippi as part of Mississippi's enduring commitment to the provision of primary health care; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers promote 100% access and zero health disparities to help achieve primary health care for all people:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim August 18 through August 24, 2002, as

HEALTH CENTER WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and urge our citizens to recognize the important contribution of Mississippi's Community Health Centers to the improvement of the general quality of life of the citizens of the great State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, July 19, 2002,
in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of
the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR**