

# HEALTH CENTER WEEK

WHEREAS: Community Health Centers located in 57 counties across the state provide high-quality, comprehensive primary health care to over 221,000 people in Georgia. These centers are non-profit, community owned and operated providers of primary and preventive medical care and are staffed by board-certified or board-eligible physicians and other highly skilled health professionals; and

WHEREAS: These centers expand access to health care for all people and help contain health care costs by fostering prevention and by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, translation and other enabling services; and

WHEREAS: Community Health Centers have made great strides in Georgia's health care system by maintaining a high standard of accountability and demonstrating cost-effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of care. These organizations also empower communities to address unmet health needs and reduce preventable deaths, costly disabilities and communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Association for Primary Health Care supports President George Bush's goal of increasing the number of health centers in Georgia and across the nation. Our community health centers are leaders in the national campaign to achieve 100 percent access and zero health disparities. These centers have demonstrated commendable efforts in continuous quality improvement, reduction of health care disparities, networking to maximize and coordinate community resources and utilizing the latest technology to improve both operations and delivery of services to more Georgians; and

WHEREAS: There is a continuing need to support implementation of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Georgia as part of the state's commitment to the provision of quality primary health care at an affordable cost to all Georgians; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 7-13, 2005, as HEALTH CENTER WEEK in Georgia and encourage the people of Georgia to recognize the important contributions of their Community Health Centers in safeguarding health and improving the general quality of life of the citizens of our great state.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this second day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand five.