PROCLAMATION

Whereas, for over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventative health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on, America's health care system.

Whereas, as the country's largest primary care network, Health Centers now serve as the health care home for over 25 million Americans in over 10,000 delivery sites across the nation. One in every 13 people in the United States gets their care in a community health center.

Whereas, Health Centers are a critical element of the health system, serving both rural and urban populations, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Health Centers serve one in every six residents of rural areas.

Whereas, Chiricahua Community Health Centers has been serving Cochise County since 1996 and began serving Benson in 2016. Chiricahua began as a grassroots community effort in the community center of Elfrida and has since grown to be the largest primary care provider in Cochise County. Chiricahua currently serves over 28,000 patients in the county, of which 33% are uninsured.

Whereas, Chiricahua Community Health Centers staff and providers are committed to the mission of "Caring for patients, building healthy communities" and the vision of "Health for ALL".

Whereas, Chiricahua Community Health Centers will soon greatly expand services in the City of Benson with a 19,000-square foot medical center bringing at least 8 new doctors to the city and providing more than 30 new jobs within the year.

Whereas, every day, Health Centers are developing new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their community.

Whereas, Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating billions of dollars in combined economic impact in some of the country's most economically deprived communities.

Whereas, Health Centers nationally employ nearly 190,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient.

Whereas, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's Health Centers, their dedicated staff, board members, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago. During this National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Health Centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor of the City of Benson, do hereby proclaim August 13-19, 2017, as National Health Center Week. I encourage all Americans to take part in this week by visiting their local Health Center and celebrating the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Benson, Arizona, on this 14th day of August, 2017.

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Toney D., King, Sr., Mayor

Attest:

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk