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Healey Administration Proclaims August 3-9, 2025, Massachusetts Health Center Week

Waltham, Massachusetts – August 4, 2025 – The Healey Administration has <u>proclaimed</u> August 3-9, 2025, as **Massachusetts Community Health Center Week** to recognize the contribution that Massachusetts Community Health Centers (CHCs) make to keeping Massachusetts healthy.

Community Health Centers are nonprofit, patient-governed organizations that provide high-quality, comprehensive primary healthcare to people living in areas with few primary care providers. CHCs are the backbone of our nation's and our state's primary health care system. CHCs design innovative, integrated primary care based on what services communities need most, which ensures access to affordable, quality healthcare. CHCs are not ordinary medical clinics; they are problem-solvers reaching beyond the exam room to care for the whole person by providing access to necessities like food and housing.

Massachusetts CHCs serve more than one million patients for primary care and for dental, vision, mental health, and substance abuse care. CHCs serve 98% of Massachusetts zip codes in more than 285 Massachusetts communities.

CHCs are vital to keeping America healthy. They care for everyone, regardless of insurance status. During hurricanes, floods, fires, pandemics, and job loss, CHCs continue to care for their patients and are one of the first organizations on the scene to help.

In addition to creating jobs and saving lives, CHCs save American taxpayers \$24 billion a year in health care costs by preventing and managing chronic diseases.

The Administration's proclamation was praised by the <u>Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project</u>, the <u>Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition</u>, and the <u>Massachusetts Chapter</u>, <u>American Academy of Pediatrics</u>. "Massachusetts Health Center Week recognizes the tireless work of our community health centers and their unwavering commitment to protecting the health of our communities—especially through increasing access to vaccinations and strengthening public trust in immunization," noted Rich Baker, MAIC, MVCP Project Co-Facilitator.

During Massachusetts Health Center Week, the <u>Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project</u> will recognize and raise awareness about Massachusetts CHCs.

The Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project is a statewide initiative formed in 2018. The Project's mission is to increase vaccine confidence throughout Massachusetts to ensure that all residents are fully protected against serious, vaccine-preventable disease.