

**2013 -- S 1032**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013**

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**S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING AUGUST 11TH THROUGH 17TH 2013 AS  
NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senator Catherine Cool Rumsey

Date Introduced: June 27, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, America's community health centers are at the core of our health care  
2 system and the nation's safety net, delivering high quality, cost effective, and accessible primary  
3 care to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay, thereby keeping communities healthy and  
4 productive; and

5           WHEREAS, Health Centers are located in medically underserved areas and locally  
6 controlled by patient majority boards making each health center responsive to the needs of their  
7 community. Currently, there are more than 1,200 health centers serving as medical homes for  
8 more than 22 million individuals at more than 8,100 locations; and

9           WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have been in existence for over 45 years and  
10 have compiled a significant record of success by reducing income and ethnic health disparities  
11 nationwide, even in the poorest and most challenged communities, producing \$24 billion in  
12 annual health system savings, reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and unnecessary visits to the  
13 ER, and generating a system of preventive medicine that patients use regularly to stay healthy,  
14 thus saving lives; and

15           WHEREAS, Health centers offer patient focused, coordinated health care, preventive and  
16 primary care that families and individuals need, where and when they need it. Community health  
17 centers employ more than 9,500 physicians and more than 6,300 nurse practitioners, physician  
18 assistants, and certified nurse midwives in a multi-disciplinary clinical workforce designed to  
19 treat the whole patient through culturally-competent, accessible, and integrated care. This unique

1 model allows health centers to save the entire health system billions of dollars annually by  
2 keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, such as emergency rooms; and

3 WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's  
4 health centers and health centers across the State of Rhode Island, their staff, board members, and  
5 all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the program since it was created  
6 over 45 years ago. During this National Health Center Week, we recognize the multitude of ways  
7 in which America's Health Centers are powering and empowering healthier communities by  
8 delivering high quality, cost effective, accessible health care; and

9 WHEREAS, Wood River Health Services in Hope Valley, RI, through its excellent,  
10 caring staff and dedicated volunteers, provides all of these benefits and more to the people of  
11 Washington County, Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
13 hereby proclaims August 11<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, as National Health Center Week in the State of  
14 Rhode Island. In this week especially we encourage every citizen of the state to visit their local  
15 health center and recognize, appreciate and celebrate the important partnership between health  
16 centers and the communities they serve; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Merrill Thomas, CEO of the Providence  
19 Community Health Centers, Inc.

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