



## Joint Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the nation's community health centers provide innovative, high-quality, affordable and preventive health care to more than 28 million Americans in over 11,000 communities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, one in every 12 people in the United States – and approximately one of every six people in Whatcom County – receives health care from a community health center; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington's community health centers continue to grow to meet the health care needs of everyone in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, community health centers reduce the overall cost of health care by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them out of costlier health care settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County's two community health centers, Unity Care NW and Sea Mar Community Health Centers, together employ nearly 400 full-time equivalent staff, including physicians, nurse practitioners, behavioral health counselors, dentists, and hygienists, who work as part of clinical care teams designed to provide coordinated health care for the whole person; and

**WHEREAS**, community health centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that patients are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the dedicated staff, board members, patients, and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of community health centers since they first opened their doors more than 50 years ago.

**NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE**, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2019 to be

### COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

Handwritten signature of Kelli Linville in blue ink.

Kelli Linville, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

Handwritten signature of Jack Louws in blue ink.

Jack Louws, County Executive  
County of Whatcom

