­**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  **CONTACT:**

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**Louisiana’s Community Health Centers Celebrate**

**National Health Center Week**

**BATON ROUGE, LA** – Louisiana’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), commonly referred to as Community Health Centers, and the Louisiana Primary Care Association are celebrating National Health Center Week (August 6-12, 2023). National Health Center Week is an annual celebration that shines a spotlight on the importance of these non-profit community healthcare providers and the work they do to expand access to healthcare to vulnerable and underserved populations. Governor John Bel Edwards has officially proclaimed this week of recognition as “Federally Qualified Health Centers Week.”

From Tallulah to Thibodaux and communities in between, 41 Community Health Centers collectively operate over 400 individual healthcare delivery sites. They provide access to primary, dental, and behavioral health care, as well as additional support services – with an emphasis on outreach to Louisiana’s Medicaid population, rural communities and others considered vulnerable and underserved. In 2022, they served over 471,000 individual patients.

At Community Health Centers, all patients are welcome regardless of their insurance status or their ability to pay for services. Health centers are unique in that they are managed by community-driven boards of directors – consisting of board members who are also patients of the health center. This management structure assures that Community Health Centers stay in-tune with their communities and adapt their services to meet the evolving needs of their patients.

“Community Health Centers play a critical role supporting Louisiana’s healthcare system,” said Gerrelda Davis, Executive Director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association. “Aside from providing primary care, dental and behavioral health services, health centers are also involved in addressing social determinants of health, responding to emergencies and advocating for policies that best serve the interests of their patients.”

“We hope you will join us this week in celebrating National Health Center Week. Here at the Louisiana Primary Care Association, we are grateful for the dedicated individuals across our state who make it their mission to improve the health and well-being of our communities.”

To learn more about National Health Center Week, visit healthcenterweek.org. To find a local Community Health Center near you, visit LPCA.net.

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**About the Louisiana Primary Care Association**

Established in 1982 as a non-profit organization, the Louisiana Primary Care Association proudly serves as the voice of Louisiana’s Community Health Centers, promoting accessible, affordable, quality healthcare services for the uninsured and medically underserved populations of our state. LPCA represents 41 federally funded Community Health Center organizations who collectively serve over 470,000 patients per year. Learn more at LPCA.net.