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LRB102 27065 MST 38410 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinics improves access to quality health care for 100,000 low-income individuals who are uninsured or underinsured by strengthening free and charitable clinics, fostering partnerships, educating the public, and advocating for health policy; and

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WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2021, the number of Illinois residents with health insurance declined, and health care for 800,000 residents in Illinois is imminently needed; and

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WHEREAS, Free and charitable clinics have a mission to serve the uninsured and underinsured by providing a range of health care services, including medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and mental and behavioral health; and

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WHEREAS, Free and charitable clinics provide community health resources that include COVID tests and vaccines as well as health education and services on a wide range of topics, including diabetes hypertension, diet, exercise, home health, and medicine administration; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Association of Free & Charitable

1 Clinics operates over 52 free and charitable clinics across
2 Illinois that are located in both rural and urban areas of the
3 State, providing visits to approximately 40,000 patients
4 annually; and

5 WHEREAS, Doctors, nurses, and other health care
6 professionals have provided more than 580,000 thousand
7 volunteer hours of medical care, administered over 15,000
8 COVID-19 vaccines, cared for over 42,000 patients in the
9 clinics, and reached over 60,000 in community outreach and
10 engagement; and

11 WHEREAS, Free and charitable clinics in Illinois are truly
12 an invaluable resource for Illinois residents who are without
13 insurance or are underinsured and provide access to
14 life-saving medical care that would otherwise be unavailable
15 or more costly; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we declare August of 2022 as "Free and Charitable Clinic
19 Month" in the State of Illinois in order to create community
20 awareness of the mission and availability of free and
21 charitable clinics across the State so that residents who are
22 without insurance or are underinsured can receive access to
23 vital medical care; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we express our gratitude and admiration for
2 the important work the many free and charitable clinics,
3 volunteer doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals
4 do for our great citizens throughout the State of Illinois;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the Illinois Association of Free & Charitable
8 Clinics as a symbol of our respect and esteem.