

**PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING MISSISSIPPI'S CCBHC EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, mental illness affects more than 431,000 Mississippians. These are our friends, family members, and neighbors. 80% of Mississippians live in a community experiencing a shortage of health professionals. These needs are particularly acute in rural areas.

WHEREAS, we approved a \$12.5 million increase in mental health funding in 2023 and passed HB 1222 is the Collaborative Response to Mental Health Act.

WHEREAS, Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) are designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals; with an emphasis on the provision of 24-hour crisis care, utilization of evidence-based practices, care coordination and integration with physical health care.

WHEREAS, CCBHCs will not only improve the quality of mental and behavioral health services in our state; it also is a smart investment that has the ability to reduce emergency room visits and incarcerations."

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mississippi General Assembly, supports the state to develop a plan for the expansion of the CCBHC program, CCBHCs are designed to ensure access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care. CCBHCs are required to serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age.

PASSED AND APPROVED in this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, <<YEAR>>.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Title: