



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, the comprehensive care family physicians provide is critical to the health of the community, preventing complications of chronic conditions, reducing unnecessary spending, and providing equitable distribution of health care;

Whereas, studies show that states with higher ratios of primary care physicians to population have better health outcomes, lower rates for mortality from heart disease, cancer or stroke, lower infant mortality and healthier birth weights, and better self-reported health;

Whereas, family physicians are often the sole physicians providing care in their communities, especially in rural or underserved areas, and can adapt their care to fit the unique needs of these communities;

Whereas, family physicians mitigate health inequity by collaborating with community stakeholders to affect positive change for the populations they serve;

Whereas, everyone should have a medical home and a primary care physician who knows and understands their health history to inform a comprehensive approach to health care;

Whereas, sustained investment in primary care is needed to preserve family medical practices and improve access; and,

Whereas, it is estimated that the U.S. will need up to 40,400 additional primary care physicians by 2036, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges;

Now, therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2024, as

Utah Family Medicine Week

Spencer J. Cox
Governor