

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Secretariat of Health and the Secretariat of Foreign Relations of the United Mexican States, the California State Department of Health Services, the Health Commission of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME), the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the University of California, California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI), have recognized the necessity of improving access to health services to migrant/immigrant workers and their families in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2000 United States Census, California is home to more than 8.45 million people of Mexican origin, 3.7 million of whom were born in Mexico, representing ninety-one percent of California's hired agricultural workers; and

WHEREAS, In October 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, CMHI, a program of the California Policy Research Center, the University of California Office of the President and partnering organizations convened the first five Bi-National Health Weeks, an unprecedented effort overseen by multi-agency task forces, which conducted health promotion activities involving over 500 community-based organizations from 38 California counties and 17 Mexican states with over 238,000 people served in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Bi-National Health Week reflects coordinated efforts between California, Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador to improve the quality of life of immigrant families by expanding access to health care, increasing health insurance coverage, and reducing unmet health needs with the vision that "the health of California is the health of its immigrants," and

WHEREAS, Bi-National Health Week is a bilateral collaborative effort between CMHI and the Mexican Secretary of Health (SSA) and Foreign Affairs (SRE), with the active participation of state and local organizations; and

WHEREAS, in California, the Department of Health Services (DHS), border-health organizations, Mexican, Guatemalan and El Salvador consulates, the Latino Legislative Caucus, community-based organizations and clinics endorse this effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Bill Dodd, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, do hereby call on all the people of Napa County to join the people of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and all Californians of Hispanic origin in observing and participating in Bi-National Health Week, to take place the week of October 8 to 14, 2006.

Bill Dodd, Chair
Napa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board