

Senate Resolution 696

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Thomas of the 54th, Harp of the 16th, Tolleson of the 18th, Hamrick of the 30th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing February 10, 2004, as
2 "Rural Health Day" in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is a nonprofit advocate for rural
4 health care consumers and the dedicated health care professionals who serve rural Georgia
5 and encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has 118 rural counties with over two million residents, one-third of the
7 state's population, but only one-half as many physicians as urban Georgia plus a continuing
8 decline in the availability and quality of health care facilities and professional services; and

9 WHEREAS, these areas have the highest cancer and cardiovascular mortality rates and infant
10 mortality, child abuse, and teen pregnancy rates and the growing uninsured population and
11 elderly population with multiple diseases far exceed the area's health care resources; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Development Council recognizes that the limited availability
13 and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's distressed
14 economy and deter industry recruitment; and

15 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and
16 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, access to
17 capital for aging health care facilities, and medical practice tort reform.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
19 commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognize February 10,
20 2004, as "Rural Health Day" in Georgia.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
22 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to GRHA.