

## Senate Resolution 87

By: Senators Meyer von Bremen of the 12th, Golden of the 8th, Hooks of the 14th, Harbison of the 15th, Hill of the 4th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing Rural Health Day; and  
2 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 these areas' 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 distressed  
14 economy and deter industry recruitment in rural areas; 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 22,  
20 2005, as Rural Health Day.

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.