

## House Resolution 307

By: Representatives Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Keen of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Porter of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Roberts of the 154<sup>th</sup>, 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 2 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 malpractice tort reform.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
19 the members of this body commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and  
20 recognize February 22, 2005, as Rural Health Day.

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