

House Resolution 1193

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Channell of the 116th, and Parrish of the 156th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Community Health Centers Day; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, federally funded community health centers located in over 100 of the state's
3 medically underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care
4 for over 226,000 people in the State of Georgia, including the working poor, uninsured,
5 underinsured, elderly, homeless, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations without
6 regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage, or disease conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, community health centers bring over \$29 million in federal funds per year to
8 Georgia communities, recruit and retain excellent health professionals where they are most
9 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and
10 prescription medicines as well as to health education, nutrition counseling, translation,
11 community outreach, transportation, and support programs; and

12 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record of over three decades of
13 controlling costs, their cost effectiveness having been documented in several studies which
14 show that rates of emergency room visits and hospitalization are much lower among
15 community health center patients than patients of other providers, including a Kaiser
16 Foundation study which shows that community health centers in Georgia save the state
17 Medicaid program at least \$14.4 million per year for care provided to Medicaid patients; and

18 WHEREAS, the community health centers work in partnership with other health care
19 providers, local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related
20 supportive services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to
21 improve the health status of the community; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia
23 Association for Primary Health Care, support President George Bush's goal to increase the
24 number of health centers in Georgia and across the nation, and have taken a leadership role

1 in establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve the state's health
2 care access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality
3 improvement, reduction of health care disparities among the underserved through
4 participation in the national health disparity collaboratives, and utilizing the latest technology
5 to improve both operations and delivery of services to more Georgians; and

6 WHEREAS, the community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable
7 contributions in expanding access to health care and their outstanding record of service and
8 dedication to improving the health care and health status of all Georgians.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body recognize February 2, 2006, as Community Health Centers Day.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for
13 Primary Health Care.