

House Resolution 1243

By: Representatives Buckner of the 130th, Parrish of the 156th, Lord of the 142nd, Jamieson of the 28th, Meadows of the 5th, 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 professionals who serve rural Georgia and
5 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 recognized 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, work force 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and
20 recognize February 14, 2006, 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.