

## Senate Resolution 751

By: Senators Goggans of the 7th, Unterman of the 45th and Thomas of the 54th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 13, 2008, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 120 medically  
4 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 255,000  
5 people in the State of Georgia, including over 75,000 Medicaid recipients and 115,000  
6 uninsured, the working poor, a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, immigrants,  
7 and other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage,  
8 or disease conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, community health centers bring over \$42 million per year to Georgia  
10 communities, recruit and retain excellent health care professionals where they are most  
11 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and  
12 prescription medicines as well as to health education, nutrition counseling, translation  
13 services, community outreach transportation, and support programs; and

14 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record spanning four decades of  
15 controlling costs, documented in several studies which show that rates of costly emergency  
16 room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center  
17 patients than patients of other providers; and

18 WHEREAS, community health centers save the Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual  
19 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia  
2 Association for Primary Health Care, have worked diligently to increase the number of  
3 community health centers in Georgia and across the nation and have taken a leadership role  
4 in establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health  
5 care access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality  
6 improvement, reduction of health disparities among the underserved, the implementation of  
7 new health care initiatives such as Medicaid managed care and electronic health records, and  
8 utilization of the latest technology to improve both operations and delivery of services to  
9 more Georgians; and

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

13 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
14 recognize the foregoing by designating February 13, 2008, as "Community Health Centers  
15 Day."

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
17 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for Primary  
18 Health Care.