

Senate Resolution 125

By: Senators Goggans of the 7th, Williams of the 19th, Staton of the 18th, Hill of the 4th, Heath of the 31st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 10, 2011, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 137 medically
4 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 350,000
5 people in the State of Georgia, including over 90,000 Medicaid recipients and 150,000
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 add \$238 million per year to Georgia's economy
10 through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$113 million in household income
11 and 1,950 Georgia jobs, that saves the Georgia Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual
12 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

13 WHEREAS, community health centers recruit and retain excellent health care professionals
14 where they are most needed and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and
15 dental services, prescription medicines, health education, nutrition counseling, translation
16 services, community outreach transportation, and other support programs; and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia
26 Association for Primary Health Care, have worked diligently to increase the number of
27 community health centers in Georgia and across the nation and have taken a leadership role
28 in establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health
29 care access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality
30 improvement, reduction of health disparities among the underserved, the implementation of
31 new health care initiatives such as electronic health records, and utilization of the latest
32 technology to improve both operations and delivery of services to more Georgians; and

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

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 recognize February 10, 2011, as "Community Health Centers Day."

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