

House Resolution 154

By: Representatives Parrish of the 156th, Channell of the 116th, England of the 108th, Burns of the 157th, Houston of the 170th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 10, 2011, as "Community Health Centers Day," and inviting the
2 leadership of the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care to be recognized by the House
3 of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 137 medically
5 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 350,000
6 people in the State of Georgia, including over 90,000 Medicaid recipients and 150,000
7 uninsured, the working poor, a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, immigrants,
8 and other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage,
9 or disease conditions; and

10 WHEREAS, community health centers add \$238 million per year to Georgia's economy
11 through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$113 million in household income
12 and 1,950 Georgia jobs, that saves the Georgia Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual
13 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, community health centers work in partnership with other health care providers,
23 local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related support

24 services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the health
25 status of the community; and

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

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

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body recognize February 10, 2011, as "Community Health Centers Day,"
39 and invite the leadership of the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care to be recognized
40 by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the
41 House of Representatives.

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