

## House Resolution 1280

By: Representative Parrish of the 156<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 9, 2012, 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 400,000  
6 people in the State of Georgia, including over 140,000 Medicaid recipients and 200,000  
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 \$250 million per year to Georgia's economy  
11 through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$118 million in household income  
12 and 2,025 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, community health centers have been innovators in the establishment of patient  
27 centered medical homes, providing access to quality care and continuity of care for the  
28 patients they serve; and

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

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

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
41 the members of this body recognize February 9, 2012, as "Community Health Centers Day"  
42 and invite the leadership of the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care to be recognized  
43 by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the  
44 House of Representatives.

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