

Senate Resolution 186

By: Senator Golden of the 8th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing February 20, 2013, as  
2 Rural Health Day at the state capitol; and 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 care professionals who serve rural Georgia  
5 and encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout this state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has 109 rural counties encompassing over 2 million residents, with a  
7 continuing decline in the availability and quality of health care providers, specialists, nurses,  
8 and professional services; and

9 WHEREAS, these geographic areas have the highest cancer and cardiovascular mortality  
10 rates and infant mortality, child abuse, and teen pregnancy rates, and the growing uninsured  
11 population and elderly population with multiple diseases far exceed the area's health care  
12 resources; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Health recognizes that the limited  
14 availability and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's  
15 distressed economy and deter industry recruitment; and

16 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and  
17 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, access to  
18 capital for aging health care facilities, and medical malpractice tort reform.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
20 commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognize February 20,  
21 2013, as Rural Health Day at the state capitol.

- 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
23 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to GRHA.