

## Senate Resolution 700

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Bethel of the 54th, Watson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th, Hill of the 4th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing March 1, 2016, as Rural  
2 Health Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association is a nonprofit advocate for rural health  
4 care consumers and dedicated health care professionals who serve rural Georgia and  
5 encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout the State of  
6 Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has 109 rural counties encompassing more than 2 million residents, and  
8 there is a continuing decline in the availability and quality of health care providers,  
9 specialists, nurses, and professional services; and

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

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

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
21 commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognize March 1, 2016,  
22 as Rural Health Day at the state capitol.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
24 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Rural  
25 Health Association.