

## House Resolution 1148

By: Representatives Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, and Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>

## 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 (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 more than 2 million residents,  
7 with a continuing decline in the availability and quality of health care providers, specialists,  
8 nurses, 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
20 the members of this body commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and  
21 recognize March 1, 2016, as Rural Health Day at the state capitol.

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