

## House Resolution 133

By: Representatives Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring physicians who have completed the scholarship program through  
2 the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Board was created to address the physician workforce needs of Georgia  
4 communities through the support and development of medical education programs and to  
5 increase the number of physicians and health care practitioners practicing in underserved  
6 rural areas; and

7 WHEREAS, the scholarship program, formerly known as the Country Doctor Program, was  
8 created in 1952 to increase the number of physicians practicing in rural Georgia by awarding  
9 service repayable scholarships to medical students; and

10 WHEREAS, since its inception, 1,668 Georgia medical students have received the benefit  
11 of this program; of the 722 recipients still holding an active license in Georgia, 28 percent  
12 still practice in a rural community; and

13 WHEREAS, each scholarship recipient agreed to practice medicine in a Georgia county with  
14 a population of 35,000 or fewer persons following the completion of his or her training in  
15 graduate medical education; and

16 WHEREAS, each scholarship recipient practicing in a rural area must accept Medicaid and  
17 Medicare patients, thus increasing access to care for some of the state's most in-need  
18 populations; and

19 WHEREAS, these physicians have completed their obligation to the state and continue to  
20 practice in rural counties, further augmenting the supply of eligible providers for areas in  
21 need; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly is concerned about the need for better access to  
23 health care and the plight of rural communities in obtaining physicians, so it is only fitting  
24 and proper to recognize physicians who are dedicated to providing accessible health care in  
25 underserved communities.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body recognize and honor these physicians for their contribution to  
28 health care in the State of Georgia and extend best wishes for future success.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
31 physicians who have completed the scholarship program through the Georgia Board for  
32 Physician Workforce.