

Senate Resolution 117

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Unterman of the 45th, Watson of the 1st, Hufstetler of the 52nd and Kirk of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring physicians who have completed the "Scholarship Program"
2 (formerly known as the Country Doctor Program), through the Georgia Board for Physician
3 Workforce; and for other purposes.

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

8 WHEREAS, the scholarship program was created in 1952 to increase the number of
9 physicians practicing in rural Georgia by awarding service repayable scholarships to medical
10 students; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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