

House Resolution 306

By: Representatives Rynders of the 152nd, Parrish of the 158th, Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, and Harden of the 148th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing March 1, 2017, 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, 2017, 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.