

House Resolution 367

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Cooper of the 43rd, Rynders of the 152nd, Parrish of the 158th, and Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 24, 2017, as "Community Health Centers Day" and commending the
2 Georgia Association for Primary Health Care on its 40th Anniversary; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, federally qualified health centers located in 203 medically underserved
5 communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to over 500,000 people
6 in the State of Georgia, including over 150,000 Medicaid recipients and 225,000 uninsured,
7 the working poor, and a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, and other
8 vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage, or
9 disease conditions; and

10 WHEREAS, community health centers add \$287 million per year to Georgia's economy
11 through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$125 million in household income
12 and 2,100 Georgia jobs, that saves the Georgia Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual
13 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

14 WHEREAS, community health centers recruit and retain over 280 health care professionals
15 where they are most needed and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and
16 dental services, behavioral health services, prescription medicines, health education, nutrition
17 counseling, translation services, community outreach, transportation, and other support
18 programs; and

19 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record spanning over four decades of
20 controlling costs, documented in several studies which show that rates of costly emergency
21 room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center
22 patients than patients of other providers; and

23 WHEREAS, community health centers work in partnership with other health care providers,
24 local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related support

25 organizations to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the
26 health status of the community; and

27 WHEREAS, community health centers have been innovators in the establishment of patient
28 centered medical homes, providing access to quality care and continuity of care for the
29 patients they serve; and

30 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia
31 Association for Primary Health Care, have worked diligently to increase the number of
32 community health centers in Georgia and across the nation and have taken a leadership role
33 in establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health
34 care access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality
35 improvement, reduction of health disparities among the underserved, the implementation of
36 new health care initiatives such as integration of clinical and behavioral health, and
37 utilization of the latest technology to improve operations and delivery of services to more
38 Georgians; and

39 WHEREAS, community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable
40 contributions in expanding access to health care, their outstanding record of service, and their
41 dedication to improving health care and the health status of all Georgians.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body recognize February 24, 2017, as "Community Health Centers Day"
44 and commend the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care on its 40th Anniversary.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
47 Georgia Association for Primary Health Care.