

Senate Resolution 115

By: Senators Black of the 8th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Burke of the 11th and Jones of the 25th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 11, 2019, as "Community Health Centers Day" and commending the
2 Georgia Primary Care Association; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, federally qualified health centers located in 225 medically underserved
4 communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to more than 600,000
5 people in the State of Georgia, including more than 225,000 Medicaid recipients and 235,000
6 uninsured, the working poor, and a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, and
7 other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage, or
8 disease conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, community health centers contribute more than \$300 million per year to
10 Georgia's economy through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$142 million
11 in household income and 3,730 Georgia jobs, that saves the Georgia Medicaid program up
12 to 33 percent in annual spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

13 WHEREAS, community health centers recruit and retain more than 325 health care
14 professionals where they are most needed and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective
15 medical and dental services, behavioral health services, prescription medicines, health
16 education, nutrition counseling, translation services, community outreach, transportation, and
17 other support programs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 recognize February 11, 2019, as "Community Health Centers Day" and commend the
42 Georgia Primary Care Association for laudable service to patients in Georgia.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
45 Primary Care Association.