

House Resolution 283

By: Representatives Parrish of the 158th, Taylor of the 173rd, Greene of the 154th, Jackson of the 128th, Buckner of the 137th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 20, 2025, 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 330 medically underserved
4 communities provide high-quality primary and preventive health care to more than 700,000
5 people in the State of Georgia, including more than 196,000 Medicaid recipients and 186,000
6 uninsured, the working poor, and numerous underinsured, elderly, homeless, and other
7 vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage, or
8 disease conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, Community Health Centers contribute more than \$1.2 billion per year to
10 Georgia's economy through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$488 million
11 in household income and 4,509 Georgia jobs, saving the Georgia Medicaid program up to
12 33 percent in annual spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

13 WHEREAS, Community Health Centers recruit and retain more than 1,500 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 nearly six decades of
19 controlling costs, documented in several studies that show rates of costly emergency room
20 visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center
21 patients; and

22 WHEREAS, Community Health Centers work in partnership with other health care
23 providers, local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health-related
24 support organizations to maximize resources and ensure that services are coordinated to
25 improve the health status of the community; and

26 WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have been innovators in the establishment of
27 patient-centered medical homes, providing access to quality care and continuity of care for
28 the 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 have taken a leadership role in establishing more health
32 centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health care access problems,
33 demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality improvement, reduction of health
34 disparities among the underserved, implementation of new health care initiatives such as the
35 integration of medical and behavioral health services, and utilization of the latest technology
36 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 Georgians.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body recognize February 20, 2025, as Community Health Centers Day
42 and commend the Georgia Primary Care Association for its laudable service to patients in
43 Georgia.

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