

House Resolution 1348

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Jackson of the 128th, Petrea of the 166th, Gilliard of the 162nd, and Taylor of the 173rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 14, 2024, 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 243 medically underserved
4 communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to more than 750,000
5 people in the State of Georgia, including more than 275,000 Medicaid recipients and 255,000
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 \$375 million per year to
10 Georgia's economy through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$270 million
11 in household income and 4,300 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 1,200 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 which show that rates of costly emergency
20 room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center
21 patients than patients of other providers; 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 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 medical and behavioral health services and utilization of the
36 latest 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body recognize March 14, 2024, as Community Health Centers Day and
42 commend the Georgia Primary Care Association for laudable service to patients in Georgia.

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