

House Resolution 1517

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Hatchett of the 150th, LaHood of the 175th, Trammell of the 132nd, Frye of the 118th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the House Rural Development Council to solicit input from the independent
2 physicians in this state on increasing burdens and financial viability; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, the percentage of U.S. physicians who own their own practice has been
4 declining at an annual rate of approximately 2 percent for at least the past 25 years; and
- 5 WHEREAS, reimbursement rates for Medicaid, Medicare, and the state health benefit plan
6 have continuously trended downward; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the nation will be short by more than 90,000 physicians by 2020 and by 130,000
8 physicians by 2025, according to projections by the Association of American Medical
9 Colleges; and
- 10 WHEREAS, administrative burdens decrease the amount of time spent with the patient and
11 focus more on clerical and administrative matters; and
- 12 WHEREAS, insurers continue to narrow networks, and Georgia is ranked in the top two
13 states nationally with the narrowest networks, resulting in patients in the care of
14 out-of-network providers, most frequently in emergency situations; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the Physician Quality Reporting System is penalizing physicians for failing to
16 report individual data for up to 110 quality measures, such as patient immunizations, each
17 of which takes time to collect and record.
- 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body urge the House Rural Development Council to solicit input from
20 the independent physicians in this state on the increasing burdens and financial conditions
21 of such physicians.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
24 House Rural Development Council, the Medical Association of Georgia, and the medical
25 specialty societies of Georgia.