

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON AND SENATOR HEITMEIER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, May 9, 2012, as Louisiana Primary Care Association Day at the legislature.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Primary Care Association is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to promote accessible, affordable, quality primary health care for uninsured and medically underserved populations in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, members of the Louisiana Primary Care Association include twenty-eight Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) which promote health care access for all and elimination of health disparities; and

WHEREAS, FQHCs are a vital component of our state's health care system, providing underserved communities access to coordinated primary and preventive care; and

WHEREAS, FQHCs play a significant role in providing quality, accessible, and affordable patient care as Louisiana strives to build a health care system equipped for the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, FQHCs serve nearly nineteen million patients across our nation; and

WHEREAS, these providers serve nearly two hundred seven thousand patients in Louisiana of which forty-four percent are uninsured, thirty-eight percent are Medicaid recipients, and seventy-nine percent have incomes at or below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, FQHCs are essential for underserved communities and vulnerable populations and provide care to those who need it most, including millions of Americans with no medical insurance and whose illnesses might otherwise result in an unmet medical need or emergency room visit; and

WHEREAS, FQHCs are comprehensive community wellness hubs which diagnose and treat illness and injury and emphasize preventive care and wellness practices; and

WHEREAS, while FQHCs are rooted in community-based and patient-centered care, they also respond to the unique needs of their local communities by conducting outreach and education, ensuring that patients can communicate with their providers, and linking patients with social services; and

WHEREAS, serving as an economic anchor in many low-income and economically struggling communities, FQHCs are an integral source of local employment and economic growth at the heart of a modern, reformed health care system in America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge the vital role that Federally Qualified Health Centers play in improving public health in our state and recognize Wednesday, May 9, 2012, as Louisiana Primary Care Association Day at the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE