

## House Resolution 1069

By: Representatives Sims of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Channell of the 120<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 17, 2014, as "Community Health Centers Day" and inviting leadership  
2 of the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care to be recognized by the House of  
3 Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 154 medically  
5 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 500,000  
6 people in the State of Georgia, including over 150,000 Medicaid recipients and 225,000  
7 uninsured, the working poor, and a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, and  
8 other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage, or  
9 disease conditions; and

10 WHEREAS, community health centers add \$287 million per year to Georgia's economy  
11 through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$125 million in household income  
12 and 2,100 Georgia jobs, that saves the Georgia Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual  
13 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

14 WHEREAS, community health centers recruit and retain over 280 health care professionals  
15 where they are most needed and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and  
16 dental services, behavioral health services, prescription medicines, health education, nutrition  
17 counseling, translation services, community outreach, transportation, and other support  
18 programs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
42 the members of this body recognize January 17, 2014, as "Community Health Centers Day"  
43 and invite the leadership of the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care to be  
44 recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the  
45 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for  
48 Primary Health Care.