

Senate Resolution 14

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Mullis of the 53rd, Watson of the 1st, Black of the 8th, Kirk of the 13th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing March 1, 2017, as Rural
2 Health Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association is a nonprofit advocate for rural health
4 care consumers and dedicated health care professionals who serve rural Georgia and
5 encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout this state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has 109 rural counties encompassing more than 2 million residents, and
7 there is a continuing decline in the availability and quality of health care providers,
8 specialists, nurses, and professional services; and

9 WHEREAS, these geographic areas have the highest cancer and cardiovascular mortality
10 rates; in addition, infant mortality, child abuse, and teen pregnancy rates and the growing
11 uninsured population and elderly population with multiple diseases far exceed the area's
12 health care resources; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Health recognizes that the limited
14 availability and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's
15 distressed economy and deter industry recruitment; and

16 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and
17 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, access to
18 capital for aging health care facilities, and medical malpractice tort reform.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
20 commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognize March 1, 2017,
21 as Rural Health Day at the state capitol.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
23 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Rural
24 Health Association.