

## Senate Resolution 810

By: Senators Goggans of the 7th, Williams of the 19th, Hill of the 32nd, Tolleson of the 20th and Hill of the 4th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 9, 2012, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 137 medically  
3 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 400,000  
4 people in the State of Georgia, including over 140,000 Medicaid recipients and 200,000  
5 uninsured, the working poor, a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, immigrants,  
6 and other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage,  
7 or disease conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, community health centers add \$250 million per year to Georgia's economy  
9 through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$118 million in household income  
10 and 2,025 Georgia jobs, that saves the Georgia Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual  
11 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, community health centers work in partnership with other health care providers,  
21 local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related support  
22 services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the health  
23 status of the community; and

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

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

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

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
39 recognize February 9, 2012, as "Community Health Centers Day."

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for Primary  
42 Health Care.