

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 145

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, B. Brown, Dobson, and Jones (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 4, 2015

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PRESERVE FUNDING FOR
2 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.

3 Whereas, the country's community health centers are facing a 70% reduction in
4 federal funding beginning October 1, 2015; and

5 Whereas, the reduction of funding would lead to a loss of access to care for an
6 estimated 86,000 North Carolina community health center patients and potential closures of
7 community health center sites; and

8 Whereas, these cuts would result in a projected economic loss in North Carolina
9 close to \$20 million and an increase in uncompensated care at hospital emergency departments
10 of \$106 million; and

11 Whereas, these cuts would be devastating for communities where community health
12 centers are located and for North Carolina's health care system, which relies on community
13 health centers to provide access to care for vulnerable populations; and

14 Whereas, North Carolina's 34 community health centers currently serve as medical
15 homes for more than 454,000 people through more than 1.5 million patient visits; and

16 Whereas, North Carolina's community health centers are at the core of our health
17 care system and the State's safety net delivering high-quality, cost-effective, and accessible
18 primary care to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay, thus keeping communities
19 healthy and productive; and

20 Whereas, North Carolina's community health centers currently serve as medical
21 homes for 112,000 Medicaid beneficiaries; and

22 Whereas, community health centers are a vital economic engine, employing 2,900
23 people and generating more than \$359 million in economic activity each year; and

24 Whereas, 47% of the patients served by North Carolina's community health centers
25 are uninsured, and 72% are classified as low-income; and

26 Whereas, North Carolina's community health centers save \$3,400 per patient per
27 year; and

28 Whereas, community health centers are ranked as some of the most cost-effective
29 ways of delivering primary and preventive health care to populations with significant deficits in
30 health status, saving the federal health care system more than \$17 billion annually; and

31 Whereas, community health centers exemplify the patient-centered care model
32 through multidisciplinary clinical teams treating the whole patient and coordinating health care
33 that families and individuals need, where and when they need it; and

34 Whereas, community health centers have made great strides in the North Carolina
35 health system specifically by maintaining high standards of accountability, demonstrating



1 cost-effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of care, and empowering communities by
2 addressing unmet health needs and reducing health disparities, preventable deaths, costly
3 disabilities, and communicable diseases; and

4 Whereas, there is a continuing need to support implementation of community health
5 centers throughout the State of North Carolina as part of North Carolina's enduring
6 commitment to the provision of quality primary health care; Now, therefore,

7 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

8 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly urges Congress to continue its commitment to
9 affordable health care by maintaining funding for the Health Center Program.

10 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
11 resolution to the members of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

12 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.