**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MAY 22, 2012, AS FREE CLINIC AWARENESS DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is estimated that forty‑nine million Americans lack health insurance; and

Whereas, the National Association of Free Clinics and the South Carolina Association of Free Clinics are dedicated to educating the public, press, Congress, federal and state agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and other entities about free clinics and the important service they provide to America’s uninsured and underinsured; and

Whereas, it is in the interest of public health that all individuals should have access to affordable quality health care; and

Whereas, affordability, accessibility, and portability of health care are issues that remain critical to the uninsured in this country; and

Whereas, free clinics are volunteer‑based, safety‑net health care organizations that provide a range of medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and/or behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals, who are predominantly uninsured; and

Whereas, in addition, free clinics offer essential service delivery regardless of the patient’s ability to pay; and

Whereas, economically disadvantaged citizens are valued members of society, and free clinics help these citizens maintain wellness, which in turn enables them to thrive; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Free Clinic Association and its forty‑nine members will join a network of self‑advocates, agencies, and volunteers across the State to honor May 22, 2012, as South Carolina Free Clinic Awareness Day. The day will commemorate progress toward improving the lives of people with no access to health care coverage and also highlight the challenges that remain in achieving full access to health care for all our citizens. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare May 22, 2012, as Free Clinic Awareness Day in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the South Carolina Free Clinic Association.

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