

As Introduced

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
2009-2010**

S. C. R. No. 9

Senator Hughes

RESOLUTION

Designating Ohio Free Clinics Day, April 22, 2009.

WHEREAS, The members of the 128th General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to designate April 22, 2009, as Ohio Free Clinics Day; and

WHEREAS, The future of Ohio's well-being is, to a large measure, dependent on the sound physical health of our citizens, and free clinics play an important role in helping uninsured and underinsured families obtain and maintain good health. According to Census data, 2.8 million Ohioans under the age of 65 went without health insurance during 2002 and 2003, and the 2004 Ohio Family Health Survey found that the percentage of uninsured adults increased from 11.5 percent to 12.5 percent between 1998 and 2004. The ongoing deterioration of employer-based health insurance and the growing unemployment rate have led to the continuing rise of this trend; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Association of Free Clinics was incorporated in 2000 to represent agencies that provide free health care in our state, and by the end of 2007, the organization had 37 member clinics. Combining cost effective strategies with the work of more than 3,900 volunteers, these facilities saw 43,000 uninsured and underinsured patients during 2007, providing more than seven dollars in care for every dollar invested in the clinics; and

WHEREAS, Staffed by networks of dedicated medical

professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to serve those who are unable to attain or maintain quality, affordable health care, free clinics are funded through private and corporate donations, government grants, and fundraising events, and it is imperative that we continue to support these worthy institutions and the dedicated individuals who keep them operating. The skill, sensitivity, and compassion these exceptional volunteers have displayed demonstrates how a small group of people can have a positive impact on the lives of many, and we applaud them on their superb record of service in improving the health and well-being of their fellow citizens; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 128th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, designate April 22, 2009, as Ohio Free Clinics Day and, in so doing, call attention to the need for supporting volunteers and for funding free clinics throughout our state while showing our appreciation for these fine individuals and the facilities they maintain; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this Resolution to the Ohio Association of Free Clinics and to the news media of Ohio.