

House Resolution 987

By: Representatives Gordon of the 163rd, Gilliard of the 162nd, Stephens of the 164th, Petrea of the 166th, and Hitchens of the 161st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and congratulating St. Joseph's/Candler Health System's African-American
2 Health Information and Resource Center on its completion of two decades of continuous
3 service to the citizens of Savannah and surrounding areas; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's and Candler Hospital in Savannah are two of the most historically
5 significant and premier health care institutions in the country, having provided health care
6 access for all for a cumulative total of three and a half centuries; and

7 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's/Candler is widely known throughout the state for its high-tech,
8 high-quality, compassionate care and is nationally recognized for its innovative community
9 outreach efforts; and

10 WHEREAS, African Americans face much higher risk factors when it comes to serious
11 health disease, and research indicates that African Americans have shorter life spans, more
12 chronic health conditions, and higher disease and illness rates than other cultural groups; and

13 WHEREAS, 20 years ago, the African American Health Information and Resource Center
14 sought solutions to the health vacuum and access disparity to health services, as well as the
15 severe lack of cultural health information faced by African Americans in Savannah; and

16 WHEREAS, in establishing the first such center run by a private institution, the program has
17 become a national model for other communities in addressing specific health disparities of
18 minorities; and

19 WHEREAS, through culturally competent education, computer literacy initiatives and free
20 health screenings and seminars, the center has made a forceful impact on thousands of lives
21 by improving their health and teaching people how to better manage their chronic diseases;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the center, strategically located in an area of Savannah where more than 50
24 percent of the households are below the poverty line, has documented nearly 200,000
25 individual visits since its inception in 1999; and

26 WHEREAS, in developing a place where the technically disenfranchised could embrace the
27 power of change, and change the power of their own lives, the visionary leadership of St.
28 Joseph's/Candler, in partnership with Savannah State University, has had a transformative
29 impact on the lives of thousands.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body join in recognizing St. Joseph's/Candler and the African-American
32 Health Information and Resource Center for their tireless dedication and commitment to the
33 principle of health care access for all and for their devotion to the health and well-being of
34 the citizens of Savannah and congratulate them on their momentous achievement of 20
35 successful years of operation.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr.
38 Paul P. Hinchey, President and CEO of St. Joseph's/Candler; Sister Margaret Beatty, RSM,
39 St. Joseph's/Candler Vice President of Mission Services; and Ella Williamson, Director,
40 African-American Health Information and Resource Center.