

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 386

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in recognizing significant milestones in the history of those healthcare institutions that have had a profound impact on the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such esteemed institution is Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc., which was established in 1999 to meet the needs of a growing number of employed, uninsured individuals in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, inspired by Dr. Alyene Reese and Sue Ellen Riddle, Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc., is a faith-based community clinic that provides quality health care for the medically underserved who live or work in Sevier County; the clinic's core values of human life, compassionate and professional health care, community partnerships, and financial integrity are guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the clinic provides mental, dental, and behavioral health services; patients pay a small fee for services and also receive prescription assistance through the Patient Assistance Program, which provides approximately one million dollars' worth of medications annually to patients; and

WHEREAS, a large number of community civic organizations, churches, businesses, and individual donors contribute to Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc., and their generosity supports the cost of patient service delivery; and

WHEREAS, over the last twenty years, the clinic has moved from shared space in a local church youth building to a modern building in the middle of Sevierville; more than 25,000 patients have been treated; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc., currently has seventeen employees and a large group of dedicated volunteers, and the clinic's medical director has volunteered his time since 2003; he and another local physician, who has volunteered with the clinic for nine years, provide quality healthcare services, student training, and professional mentoring support for the clinic's dedicated employees. Dental services are provided by a local dentist who has volunteered with the clinic since its first year of operation; and

WHEREAS, the clinic maintains strong partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Health and several universities, and it provides professional training opportunities to medical students, residents, nursing and physician assistant mid-level students, and other healthcare professionals. The clinic also partners with East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine twice a year to provide free medical care to several hundred patients; and

WHEREAS, the community is appreciative of the good work that Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc., does to ensure all individuals in Sevier County have access to quality health care which leads to a better quality of life, and the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud this exemplary organization on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc., commend its twenty years of excellence in health care, and extend our best wishes for many more years of continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.