

As Offered

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

H. R. No. 481

Representative Amstutz

**Cosponsors: Representatives Antonio, Ramos, Strahorn, Celebrezze,
Brenner, Pelanda, Hood**

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing Free Clinic Appreciation Month in Ohio,
December 2016.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to recognize December 2016 as Free Clinic Appreciation Month in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Designated by the Ohio General Assembly in 2015, Free Clinic Appreciation Month calls attention to the essential role that free clinics play in the healthcare system of the State of Ohio and the United States. More than thirty-five thousand people made more than seventy-six thousand visits to free clinics for a variety of reasons during 2015; and

WHEREAS, There are many issues that contribute to people's use of free clinics, including the inability to afford government subsidized health plans, benefits with time and quantity limits, and patients having trouble finding specialists and traveling to providers that accept their insurance. In addition, citizens who are homeless or recently unemployed may lack medical benefits. Free clinics are important in meeting the healthcare well-being of many Ohio citizens; and

WHEREAS, Since free clinics have no regulatory oversight, the Ohio Association of Free Clinics implemented quality standards for its members to follow, setting guidelines for policies and procedures to fulfill their mission with compassion and expertise. Free clinics also help educate medical students and assist physicians in repaying their medical school loans by offering them volunteer opportunities. These endeavors are truly praiseworthy;

therefore be it 25

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 26
Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting 27
this Resolution, recognize Free Clinic Appreciation Month in Ohio, 28
December 2016, and urge all Ohioans to support free clinics and 29
promote their availability; and be it further 30

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 31
transmit duly authenticated copies of this Resolution to the Ohio 32
Association of Free Clinics and to the news media of Ohio. 33