

## As Introduced

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

**S. R. No. 551**

**Senator Jones**

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### A RESOLUTION

Recognizing December 2016 as Free Clinic Appreciation  
Month in Ohio.

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

WHEREAS, In an effort to acknowledge and support the ongoing  
contributions of Free Clinics across Ohio, the month of December  
was designated through Ohio House Bill 320 of the 130th General  
Assembly. Many Ohioans do not have access to health insurance  
coverage despite the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and  
the expansion of Medicaid, and free clinics provide quality care  
for those individuals; and

WHEREAS, Although the general public, healthcare providers,  
and legislators do not understand why some citizens choose to not  
use Medicaid or enroll in a marketplace plan, there is a large  
population who do take advantage of the available insurance but  
still have problems paying their medical bills due to Medicaid  
spend-downs and high deductibles, as well as people who are  
homeless, living in extreme poverty, or are unexpectedly  
unemployed and simply cannot pay for the coverage. Therefore, free  
clinics take on an instrumental role in caring for these people,  
and they will continue to play an essential role in the healthcare  
system throughout Ohio and the nation; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, at least 35,349 patients visited free  
clinics in Ohio, and these medical centers provide quality  
treatment with dignity, offer enhanced access and continuity of  
care, identify and manage patient populations, plan and manage  
services, provide self-care support and community resources, and  
track and coordinate care. We encourage all Ohioans to recognize

and participate in this important observance; therefore be it 28

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 131st 29  
General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, recognize 30  
December 2016 as Free Clinic Appreciation Month in Ohio; and be it 31  
further 32

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 33  
authenticated copies of this Resolution to the Ohio Association of 34  
Free Clinics and the news media of Ohio. 35