

By Representative Chestnut

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring the Alachua County
Organization for Rural Needs Clinic.

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Organization for Rural
Needs (ACORN) Clinic is a nonprofit organization, begun in
1974 when two area churches funded the VISTA volunteers to
provide health, dental, and social services to the rural poor
in Alachua, Bradford, and Union Counties, and, in 1976, a
medical clinic was established, with a dental clinic to follow
in 1987, and

WHEREAS, ninety-six percent of the patients served by
the ACORN clinic are at or below 150 percent of the federal
poverty guidelines, and

WHEREAS, the clinic serves a large portion of the
minority population in the rural areas of North Central
Florida, 16 percent of whom are children, 20 percent of whom
are elderly, and 64 percent of whom are middle aged with
chronic health issues, and

WHEREAS, the ACORN Clinic provides valuable medical
services by relying on the dedicated professionals in the
surrounding communities who contribute over 11,500 hours of
volunteer time each year, and

WHEREAS, the ACORN Clinic was recognized in 1997 with
the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader, 1 of 10 in
the United States, and was awarded the National Rural Health
Association's Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year in
1998, recognizing their commitment to the rural poor and their
right to quality health, dental, and social services, NOW,
THEREFORE,

1 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Florida:

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4 That the House of Representatives commends the Alachua
5 County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic for its service to
6 the Alachua County community and the State of Florida.

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