

SENATE RESOLUTION 39

(By Senators Grady and Jeffries)

[Introduced February 13, 2026]

1 Recognizing the West Virginia Area Health Education Centers for their outstanding contributions
2 to the health care workforce development in West Virginia.

3 Whereas, West Virginia Area Health Education Centers have served the State of West
4 Virginia for 25 years; and

5 Whereas, The Area Health Education Centers program was developed by Congress in
6 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to medically
7 underserved populations; and

8 Whereas, The mission of West Virginia Area Health Education Centers is to improve the
9 health of our communities by developing an interprofessional workforce prepared to address the
10 health needs of rural and medically underserved communities of West Virginia; and

11 Whereas, West Virginia Area Health Education Centers engage students in grades 9-12 to
12 expose and recruit high school students to health careers, consistently serving over 1,400
13 students each year; and

14 Whereas, West Virginia Area Health Education Centers provide opportunities for health
15 professional trainees with clinical experiences in community-based settings by engaging
16 hundreds of West Virginia students across dozens of medically underserved and rural
17 communities; and

18 Whereas, West Virginia Area Health Education Centers promote the optimal use of the
19 health care workforce to improve the quality of care delivered through interprofessional
20 collaboration by providing interdisciplinary training opportunities to over 100 health professions

1 trainees across all health care disciplines; and

2 Whereas, West Virginia Area Health Education Centers strengthen the existing health care
3 workforce in rural and medically underserved areas to support the retention of community-based
4 health professionals by partnering to provide continuing education to nearly 1,000 health care
5 providers; therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate:*

7 That the Senate hereby recognizes the West Virginia Area Health Education Centers for
8 their outstanding contributions to the health care workforce development in West Virginia; and, be
9 it

10 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate recognizes the 25-year commitment of WV Area Health
11 Education Centers; and, be it

12 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
13 the West Virginia Area Health Education Centers.