

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 35 By: Stipe

A Resolution recognizing and applauding Dr. Larry Lewis, Dr. James Anderson, McAlester Regional Hospital, and the many individuals, agencies and corporations who give for the benefit of others by contributing their energy, time and resources to the operation of the Mercy Free Clinic in McAlester, Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the effects of the economic downturn of the last few years are reflected in many aspects of daily life in Oklahoma: more people are homeless; individual bankruptcies are at an all-time high; and businesses are closing, taking away jobs that for many meant not only income to provide for one's personal and family needs, but also benefits such as health insurance coverage, which ensured one's personal and family medical care; and

WHEREAS, realizing this trend was on the increase in his community and refusing to stand by helplessly as many of his neighbors were unable to get needed medical attention because of a lack of health insurance, Dr. Larry Lewis, a native of McAlester, Oklahoma, envisioned a concept which today has materialized into a one-of-a-kind facility; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Lewis and Dr. James Anderson, with the cooperation and assistance of McAlester Regional Hospital which furnished bedding, supplies, laboratory services and a building, successfully organized a volunteer staff of health care professionals, including registered nurses, pharmacists, physicians, lab technicians, dentists and social workers, to operate the Mercy Free Clinic, a clinic that opened in 1992 for the sole purpose of providing free medical care to persons with no health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis and Dr. Anderson are joined by a huge contingency of volunteers and agencies who assist the clinic by providing administrative and clerical support services. People from all over the southeastern part of the state come to McAlester to receive health care services on Wednesday nights. The clinic opens at six o'clock in the evening and remains open until everyone is seen; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Senate wishes to take this opportunity to recognize and applaud Dr. Lewis, Dr. Anderson, McAlester Regional Hospital, and the many individuals, agencies and corporations who contribute to the success of the Mercy Free Clinic, and to express appreciation on behalf of the citizens of McAlester and the State of Oklahoma for providing a much needed service to their community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate hereby recognizes and applauds Dr. Larry Lewis, Dr. James Anderson, McAlester Regional Hospital, and the many individuals, agencies and corporations who give for the benefit of others by contributing their energy, time and resources to the operation of the Mercy Free Clinic in McAlester, Oklahoma.

