

1 HJR79
2 116560-1
3 By Representatives Ward and Galliher
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-JAN-10

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 URGING CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO ALLOW ALABAMIANS TO
9 VIEW THE FINAL DISCUSSIONS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM ON C-SPAN AND
10 OTHER ELECTRONIC MEDIA OUTLETS.

11
12 WHEREAS, national health care reform now being
13 considered by the U.S. Congress has a significant impact on
14 the quality of life of every Alabamian and every American; and

15 WHEREAS, national health care reform has a serious
16 fiscal impact on the budget of every state government,
17 including Alabama, which will require additional state
18 funding; and

19 WHEREAS, state-based programs such as Medicaid and
20 SCHIP in a national initiative of legislation on health care
21 reform have a direct impact on the operations of state
22 governments, including Alabama, and thereby creates a
23 compelling state interest in the process and specific
24 provisions of any successful health care reform legislation
25 adopted by Congress; and

26 WHEREAS, several governors including Alabama
27 Governor Bob Riley, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, and

1 California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger have expressed
2 serious concerns about the implications of national health
3 care reform for states; and

4 WHEREAS, the National Governor's Association (NGA)
5 has expressed concerns that "any reforms approved at the
6 federal level must allow states flexibility to adapt to local
7 conditions and retain the primary state roles of
8 administration, regulation, and consumer protection. It is
9 also important that this framework support the role that
10 states play in innovations around delivery system reform and
11 value-based purchasing"; and

12 WHEREAS, the NGA further expressed concerns about
13 unfunded federal mandates by stating, "sufficient financing
14 mechanisms" must "ensure that coverage and delivery system
15 reform goals can be met. On their own, states are not
16 well-positioned to sustain increases in their health care
17 budgets"; and

18 WHEREAS, the current versions of health care reform
19 on the national level do not provide the appropriate federal
20 levels of funding necessary for states, except for Nebraska;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the citizens of Alabama and the entire
23 country have a personal and vested interest in the details of
24 any successful health care reform initiative adopted by
25 Congress; and

26 WHEREAS, as a presidential candidate, Barack Obama
27 repeatedly promised that all negotiations on national health

1 care reform would be open to the public and aired on C-SPAN so
2 that the public could have input as to the contents of any
3 national health care reform legislation; and

4 WHEREAS, C-SPAN President Brian Lamb issued a letter
5 to Congressional leaders on December 30, 2009, requesting that
6 Congress allow C-SPAN and other electronic media to broadcast
7 the final phases of the health care reform debate, which
8 request mirrors closely the campaign promises for transparency
9 in this debate by President Obama; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge Congressional
12 leaders to allow Alabamians to view the final discussions on
13 health care reform on C-SPAN and other electronic media
14 outlets.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House
16 of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit
17 appropriate copies of this resolution to the Congressional
18 leaders.