

1 HJR225
2 151175-1
3 By Representative Lee
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-APR-13

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8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE, MOURNING THE DEATH, AND
9 COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF MARY BETH MILLER IN EFFORTS LEADING
10 TO A POLICY FOR PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENING ON ALL ALABAMA
11 NEWBORNS.

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13 WHEREAS, Mary Beth Miller, born on October 17, 2005,
14 to Mark and Stacey Miller of Dothan, Alabama, passed away
15 Saturday, March 23, 2013, at the young age of seven; and

16 WHEREAS, throughout her life Mary Beth was an
17 example of true courage; being born premature at only 3.6
18 pounds and with a very complex heart condition, she endured
19 six open-heart surgeries and more than 340 medical procedures;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Mary Beth saw the world as a place to learn
22 new things, loved making friends, and in her own words wanted
23 to dedicate her life to helping Alabama babies; and

24 WHEREAS, Mary Beth's personal story, along with the
25 dedication of her parents, served as the impetus for statewide
26 efforts to require all Alabama birthing facilities to perform

1 pulse oximetry screening on newborns prior to their being
2 discharged; and

3 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention states that congenital heart defects (CHD) is the
5 leading cause of infant death due to birth defects, and it is
6 calculated that 300 infants with an unrecognized critical
7 heart defect are discharged each year from newborn nurseries
8 in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, pulse oximetry is a noninvasive test to
10 estimate the percentage of hemoglobin in blood that is
11 saturated with oxygen and, when performed on a newborn within
12 24 to 48 hours of age, pulse oximetry screening is often more
13 effective at detecting critical, life-threatening CHDs which
14 otherwise go undetected by current screening methods; and

15 WHEREAS, many newborn lives will potentially be
16 saved by earlier detection and treatment of CHDs when birthing
17 facilities in the state are required to perform this simple,
18 noninvasive newborn screening in conjunction with current CHD
19 screening methods; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mary Beth Miller be commended
22 for her legacy in the efforts leading to a policy requiring
23 that the pulse oximetry testing be completed on all Alabama
24 newborns prior to discharge.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Mark and Stacey Miller,
26 Representative Paul Lee, Senator Mark Keahey, the American

1 Heart Association, the Alabama Hospital Association, the
2 Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and the Alabama
3 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics also be
4 commended for their collaborative effort working in
5 conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health to
6 achieve this very important change in policy in the health
7 care of newborns in Alabama.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Mark and Stacey Miller,
9 Representative Paul Lee, Senator Mark Keahey, Alabama
10 Department of Public Health, the American Heart Association,
11 the Alabama Hospital Association, the Medical Association of
12 the State of Alabama, and the Alabama Chapter of the American
13 Academy of Pediatrics, be presented with a copy of this
14 resolution.