

1 SJR80  
2 151987-1  
3 By Senator Blackwell  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-APR-13

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8 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO INCREASE  
9 PUBLIC AWARENESS OF RISKS OF NONVALVULAR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION.  
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11 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation (AF), the most common  
12 type of irregular heartbeat, consists of two types,  
13 nonvalvular AF (NVAf) and valvular AF; and

14 WHEREAS, NVAf makes up approximately 95 percent of  
15 AF, affecting an estimated 5.8 million people in the U.S.; and

16 WHEREAS, individuals with NVAf have five times  
17 greater risk of stroke, and about 15 percent of strokes are  
18 due to NVAf; and

19 WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death  
20 as well as a leading cause of long-term disability in the  
21 U.S., accounting for 1 in every 19 deaths in 2009; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2010, the total cost of cardiovascular  
23 diseases in the U.S. was estimated at \$444 billion, and  
24 treatment of these diseases accounts for about \$1 of every \$6  
25 spent on health care in this country; and

1           WHEREAS, as of 2005, NVAF alone cost an estimated  
2 \$6.65 billion per year, with nearly 75 percent of those direct  
3 and indirect costs associated with hospitalization; and

4           WHEREAS, NVAF is a serious health issue deserving  
5 attention from state health officials; an increase in  
6 community awareness of NVAF can improve the likelihood that  
7 people with NVAF will seek the treatment they need before  
8 suffering from devastating consequences; now therefore,

9           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in order to improve public  
11 health and ultimately save taxpayer dollars, we hereby urge  
12 the Department of Public Health to increase public awareness  
13 of the risks posed by nonvalvular atrial fibrillation and  
14 stroke and the availability of treatment options.