

1 SJR41
2 168329-2
3 By Senators Ross, Singleton, Beasley, Figures, Smith, Coleman,
4 Sanders, Dunn and Smitherman
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 28-APR-15

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8 EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC AND
9 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE AND URGING THE
10 GOVERNOR TO IMMEDIATELY EXPAND MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE
11 CARE ACT IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

12
13 WHEREAS, the question of how to provide
14 comprehensive, quality health care to all Alabamians
15 regardless of income, health status, age, or gender has been
16 one the Alabama Legislature has asked itself time and time
17 again; and

18 WHEREAS, Alabamians are suffering because of their
19 lack of access to health care; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Foundation, people
21 in Alabama go to the emergency room 20 percent more than the
22 average American; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease
24 Control and Prevention, over 12 percent of Alabama's
25 population has been diagnosed with diabetes, which ranks it
26 among the highest rate in the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Foundation, Alabama
2 has the third highest amount of heart disease-related deaths
3 in the nation (228.4 deaths per 100,000 people); and

4 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Foundation, Alabama
5 has the second highest infant mortality rate in the nation
6 (8.8 deaths per 1,000 live births); and

7 WHEREAS, more broad access to health care leads to
8 preventive care, which produces healthier families, a
9 healthier workforce, and an all-around healthier state; with
10 the expansion of Medicaid, hundreds of thousands of Alabamians
11 will have access to preventive care versus acute care for the
12 first time in their lives; and

13 WHEREAS, a 2012 study from the School of Public
14 Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
15 estimates that 300,000 additional Alabamians would be eligible
16 for health coverage should Medicaid be expanded, with a
17 majority of those people being employed, working Alabamians;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid will result in
20 reduced state spending on health care related services to
21 those previously uninsured residents with incomes below 133
22 percent of the federal poverty limit; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 UAB study, Shelby,
24 Blount, and Baldwin Counties have the largest percentages of
25 uninsured people among their low-income populations that would
26 be newly eligible; and

1 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 UAB study, a \$1
2 increase in federal spending on Medicaid yields an additional
3 65-75 cents of economic activity; and

4 WHEREAS, according to a 2013 study conducted by the
5 Culverhouse College of Commerce at the University of Alabama,
6 Medicaid expansion would create \$28 billion in overall
7 business activity through 2020 and approximately 30,000 new
8 jobs would be created in the following industries: 11,290 jobs
9 in health care and social assistance; 6,390 jobs in retail
10 trade; 5,490 jobs in professional, scientific, and technical
11 services; 1,423 jobs in administrative and other support
12 services; 1,247 jobs in accommodation and food service; and
13 1,095 jobs in the finance and insurance industry; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal government will pay 100 percent
15 of the Medicaid expansion until 2017; the federal government's
16 share will decrease to 95 percent in 2017 and ultimately to 90
17 percent by 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, with the additional revenue and economic
19 activity that would be generated from expanding Medicaid, the
20 cost to the State of Alabama would be more than covered; and

21 WHEREAS, if Medicaid is not expended, the State of
22 Alabama stands to lose \$12 billion in federal funds which are
23 Alabamians' tax dollars going to provide health care in other
24 states; and

25 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has lost approximately
26 2.25 billion in federal dollars as of April 2015 by not
27 expanding Medicaid and will continue to lose \$375 million for

1 every additional quarter that Medicaid expansion is rejected;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, a 2012 study conducted by the University of
4 Alabama at Birmingham's School of Public Health found that the
5 Medicaid expansion would generate \$20 billion in new economic
6 activity and increase tax revenues by \$925 million through
7 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, Alabama's hospitals have experienced cuts
9 that equal millions of dollars due to the Governor's refusal
10 to expand Medicaid which has placed a tremendous financial
11 strain on hospitals resulting in elimination of services, loss
12 of jobs, and even hospital closures thus reducing access to
13 care for every Alabamian; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Governor of the State of
16 Alabama is urged to expand Medicaid immediately in this state
17 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to
18 enhance access to health care, promote revenue and economic
19 activity, and to save and create jobs in this state.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
21 resolution be sent forthwith to Governor Robert Bentley that
22 he may know of our strong sentiments concerning this issue.