

1 HJR20
2 171787-1
3 By Representative Williams (JD)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 10-SEP-15

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8 URGING AWARENESS OF SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AND
9 RECOGNIZING AUGUST AS SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH.

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11 WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a debilitating,
12 horrific disease that renders infected individuals physically
13 weak and unable to walk, eat, breathe, or swallow; and

14 WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which attacks the
15 motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affects one in 10,000
16 babies; and

17 WHEREAS, about one in every 50 Americans is a
18 genetic carrier, and Spinal Muscular Atrophy is blind to race
19 and gender; and

20 WHEREAS, currently, no approved treatment for this
21 nightmare of a disease exists; and

22 WHEREAS, however, researchers understand the causes
23 of Spinal Muscular Atrophy and what route to take to develop
24 effective therapies; and

25 WHEREAS, scientists are on the verge of major
26 breakthroughs that will strengthen the bodies of infected

1 children, extend life, and eventually produce a cure; now
2 therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge Alabamians to unite in
5 the cause of raising awareness for Spinal Muscular Atrophy and
6 bolstering support for all entities searching for effective
7 treatment and a cure for this disease and recognize August
8 2015 as Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month.