

1 SJR30  
2 173611-2  
3 By Senator Smitherman  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-FEB-16

1 SJR30

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4 ENROLLED, SJR30,

5 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF REMOVING BARRIERS TO  
6 BREAST FEEDING.

7  
8 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the  
9 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the  
10 American Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of  
11 Breastfeeding Medicine, and the World Health Organization  
12 recommend that babies be exclusively breast fed for the first  
13 six months of an infant's life and continue to be breast fed  
14 until 12 months of age or longer as mutually desired; and

15 WHEREAS, only 29.5 percent of Alabama infants are  
16 still breastfeeding at six months of age, giving Alabama the  
17 ranking 49 out of 50 for breastfeeding rates among all states;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Alabama rates of breast feeding initiation,  
20 duration, exclusivity, and work site support fall well below  
21 both the national baseline and the Healthy People 2020 goal to  
22 increase the proportion of infants who are ever breast fed to  
23 82 percent; and

24 WHEREAS, in January 2011, the United States Surgeon  
25 General announced a "Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding"

1 that identifies barriers to optimal breastfeeding in health  
2 care practices, employment, communities, research, public  
3 health infrastructure, and social networks, and also  
4 recommended methods in which families, communities, employers,  
5 and health care professionals could help eliminate those  
6 barriers to improve breastfeeding rates and increase support  
7 for breastfeeding; and

8 WHEREAS, children fed mainly breast milk for the  
9 first six months of life are 22 percent less likely to be  
10 overweight by age 14; and

11 WHEREAS, research shows that human milk and  
12 breastfeeding provide advantages with regard to general  
13 health, growth, and development while significantly decreasing  
14 the risk of a large number of acute and chronic diseases such  
15 as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, asthma, allergies, diabetes,  
16 viral and bacterial infections, childhood obesity, childhood  
17 leukemia, necrotizing enterocolitis, and infant mortality; and

18 WHEREAS, mothers who breastfeed have a decreased  
19 risk of breast, uterine and ovarian cancer, postpartum  
20 depression, and osteoporosis later in life; and

21 WHEREAS, the nutrients exclusive to human milk are  
22 vital to the growth, development, and maintenance of the human  
23 brain and cannot be manufactured; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States Department of  
25 Agriculture's Economic Research Service estimates that at

1 least 3.6 billion dollars in medical expenses could be saved  
2 each year if the number of children breast fed for at least  
3 six months increased to 50 percent; and

4 WHEREAS, breastfeeding has positive economic impacts  
5 on families by decreasing the need to pay for medical care for  
6 a sick infant and eliminating the need to purchase infant  
7 formula; and

8 WHEREAS, the health benefits to breastfed children  
9 and their mothers result in lower health care costs for  
10 employers, less employee time off to care for sick children  
11 and higher productivity and employee loyalty; and

12 WHEREAS, employers, employees, and society benefit  
13 by supporting a mother's decision to breastfeed and by helping  
14 to reduce the obstacles to initiating and continuing  
15 breastfeeding; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the unique health, economic,  
18 and societal benefits that breastfeeding provides to babies,  
19 mothers, families, and the community as a whole and affirms  
20 that the State of Alabama should work to ensure that barriers  
21 to initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are removed.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage employers  
23 to strongly support and encourage breastfeeding by striving to  
24 provide accommodations of appropriate space and time to allow  
25 employees to express their milk.

1           RESOLVED FURTHER, That we encourage all state  
2 agencies that administer programs providing maternal or child  
3 health services to provide information about breastfeeding to  
4 program participants, and to encourage and support program  
5 participants' choices to breastfeed.

6           RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Secretary of the Senate  
7 is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the  
8 Department of Human Resources, Department of Public Health,  
9 Department of Labor, and other such agencies deemed  
10 appropriate by the Secretary to advance the causes of this  
11 resolution.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR30  
Senate 18-FEB-16  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 23-FEB-16

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By: Senator Smitherman