

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

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF REMOVING BARRIERS TO
9 BREAST FEEDING.

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Alabama rates of breast feeding initiation,
23 duration, exclusivity, and work site support fall well below
24 both the national baseline and the Healthy People 2020 goal to
25 increase the proportion of infants who are ever breast fed to
26 82 percent; and

1 WHEREAS, in January 2011, the United States Surgeon
2 General announced a "Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding"
3 that identifies barriers to optimal breastfeeding in health
4 care practices, employment, communities, research, public
5 health infrastructure, and social networks, and also
6 recommended methods in which families, communities, employers,
7 and health care professionals could help eliminate those
8 barriers to improve breastfeeding rates and increase support
9 for breastfeeding; and

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the United States Department of
27 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.

26 RESOLVED FURTHER, That we encourage all state
27 agencies that administer programs providing maternal or child

1 health services to provide information about breastfeeding to
2 program participants, and to encourage and support program
3 participants' choices to breastfeed.

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