

1 SJR29  
2 197602-2  
3 By Senators Allen, Singleton, Reed, Albritton, Barfoot,  
4 Beasley, Burkette, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen,  
5 Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger,  
6 Holley, Jones, Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr,  
7 Price, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Sessions, Shelnut,tt,  
8 Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 04-APR-19

1 SJR29

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4 ENROLLED, SJR29,

5 HONORING RICHARD SHELBY, ALABAMA'S EDUCATION  
6 SENATOR.

7  
8 WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 3, 2019, Senator Richard  
9 Shelby surpassed John Sparkman to become the longest-serving  
10 United States Senator from the State of Alabama, his 40 years  
11 and 22 days of uninterrupted service in Congress ranks 41st  
12 among all congressmen and senators in the history of America;  
13 just four currently sitting members have more combined House  
14 and Senate service; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Shelby's deep commitment and  
16 unstinting support to advance science and technology education  
17 and medical research has benefited Auburn University, The  
18 University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at  
19 Birmingham, the University of South Alabama, and other  
20 institutions throughout our state; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Shelby's steadfast support of  
22 year-round Pell Grants has helped hundreds of thousands of  
23 Alabama students attend and graduate from our state's public  
24 universities, public community colleges, and regionally

1 accredited private colleges and universities, including  
2 Historically Black Colleges and Universities:

3 (1) A total of \$23 billion in federal and state  
4 student aid was spent across the 16 Southern Regional  
5 Education Board (SREB) member states in Fiscal Year 2017, of  
6 which approximately \$18 billion or 79 percent is federal and  
7 \$5 billion or 21 percent is state-funded, but Alabama, at one  
8 percent, ranks dead last across SREB states, making Pell  
9 Grants Alabama's de facto state student aid program.

10 (2) Auburn University had 2,793 Pell Grant awardees  
11 in 2008 to 2009, and 3,536 Pell Grant awardees in 2016 to  
12 2017; The University of Alabama had 4,216 Pell Grant and  
13 recipients in 2008 to 2009, and 6,201 Pell Grant recipients in  
14 2016 to 2017. In the same 9-year period, Pell Grant funding  
15 grew from \$9,062,149 to \$14,782,643, or 63 percent at Auburn  
16 University and \$13,919,580 to \$25,723,796 or 85 percent at the  
17 University of Alabama.

18 (3) Ninety percent of Stillman College's students  
19 are on Pell Grants, and this is true for many Historically  
20 Black Colleges across Alabama and the nation; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Shelby understands how Pell Grants  
22 drive enrollment at our state's colleges and universities,  
23 especially community colleges, regional universities, and  
24 private non-profit regionally accredited colleges and  
25 universities, including Historically Black Colleges and

1 Universities; enrollment rose between 2007 and 2012, when Pell  
2 Grant funding rose, and fell at many of these institutions for  
3 five consecutive years after Pell Grant funding was reduced in  
4 June of 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Shelby has long recognized the  
6 vital role Pell Grants play in assisting Alabama students to  
7 attend and succeed in higher education, to create the 21st  
8 century workforce our state's dynamic business community  
9 needs; according to data developed by the Education Policy  
10 Center at The University of Alabama:

11 (1) Pell Grants are a critically important workforce  
12 development pipeline for our state's businesses, 36 percent of  
13 all The University of Alabama graduates hired by Mercedes in  
14 2015 to 2016 were on Pell Grants.

15 (2) Fifty-two percent of Career and Technical  
16 Education students enrolled at community colleges across  
17 Alabama and Mississippi in 2015 to 2016 were on Pell Grants;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in recognition of the vital role Pell  
20 Grants play, in partnership with former Mississippi Senator  
21 Thad Cochran, Senator Richard Shelby helped to pass the  
22 Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed into law by President  
23 Donald J. Trump on May 5, 2017, which restored year-round Pell  
24 Grants; and

1           WHEREAS, Summer Pell Grants for the first time puts  
2           our foundational federal need-based student aid program onto  
3           the same year-round basis that our colleges and universities  
4           have been on for some four decades, saving Alabama students  
5           countless time, credits, and money, and assisting businesses  
6           in preventing critical labor shortages; and

7           WHEREAS, on the very day in April 2018, that Senator  
8           Richard Shelby become the first Alabamian to ever chair the  
9           United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, his staff  
10          hosted a briefing by representatives of The University of  
11          Alabama's Education Policy Center, Mississippi State  
12          University's Stennis Institute, and the Southern Regional  
13          Education Board that revealed the impact of the new year-round  
14          Pell Grants. The Education Policy Center's studies reveal:

15                 (1) From Summer 2017 to Summer 2018, Shelton State  
16                 Community College had a three percent headcount enrollment  
17                 increase, and a 6.4 percent credit hour increase.

18                 (2) Ninety percent of Stillman College students are  
19                 on Pell Grants; the colleges enrollment increased in Summer  
20                 2018 over 2017.

21                 (3) At The University of Alabama, the number of Pell  
22                 Grant awardees nearly tripled, from 426 in Summer 2017 to  
23                 1,301 in Summer 2018, and dollars quadrupled from about half a  
24                 million in Summer 2017 to \$2.1 million in Summer 2018.

1           (4) Across all postsecondary institutions in  
2 Alabama, for Summer 2017, 30,328 students received  
3 \$50,156,188; for Summer 2018, 42,078 students received  
4 \$72,747,991; now therefore,

5           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
6 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body recognizes its  
7 former member, the Honorable Richard Shelby for his leadership  
8 in reestablishing year-round Pell Grants, one of the most  
9 important national education reforms in the past quarter  
10 century, and gratefully thanks him for his service as  
11 "Alabama's education senator."

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Legislature  
13 invites Senator Richard Shelby to return to Montgomery, so  
14 that he may be personally and formally thanked in person for  
15 this important contribution to our state and nation.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR29  
Senate 04-APR-19  
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: 11-APR-19

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By: Senator Allen