

1 SJR29
2 197602-1
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

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8 HONORING RICHARD SHELBY, ALABAMA'S EDUCATION
9 SENATOR.

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Senator Shelby's steadfast support of
25 year-round Pell Grants has helped hundreds of thousands of
26 Alabama students attend and graduate from our state's public
27 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
26 Universities; enrollment rose between 2007 and 2012, when Pell
27 Grant funding rose, and fell at many of these institutions for

1 five consecutive years after Pell Grant funding was reduced in
2 June of 2012; and

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Summer Pell Grants for the first time puts
24 our foundational federal need-based student aid program onto
25 the same year-round basis that our colleges and universities
26 have been on for some four decades, saving Alabama students

1 countless time, credits, and money, and assisting businesses
2 in preventing critical labor shortages; and

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

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

14 (2) Ninety percent of Stillman College students are
15 on Pell Grants; the colleges enrollment increased in Summer
16 2018 over 2017.

17 (3) At The University of Alabama, the number of Pell
18 Grant awardees nearly tripled, from 426 in Summer 2017 to
19 1,301 in Summer 2018, and dollars quadrupled from about half a
20 million in Summer 2017 to \$2.1 million in Summer 2018.

21 (4) Across all postsecondary institutions in
22 Alabama, for Summer 2017, 30,328 students received
23 \$50,156,188; for Summer 2018, 42,078 students received
24 \$72,747,991; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
26 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body recognizes its
27 former member, the Honorable Richard Shelby for his leadership

1 in reestablishing year-round Pell Grants, one of the most
2 important national education reforms in the past quarter
3 century, and gratefully thanks him for his service as
4 "Alabama's education senator."

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