

1 SJR85  
2 200073-1  
3 By Senator Figures  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 21-MAY-19

RECOGNIZING MARCH OF DIMES DAY.

WHEREAS, March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies; March of Dimes does this by supporting research, leading programs, providing education and advocacy, and mobilizing the nation by amplifying the voices of all women and families; and

WHEREAS, twelve percent of Alabama's babies are born prematurely each year; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is one of only four states to have received a grade of "F" on the March of Dimes 2018 Premature Birth Report Card; and

WHEREAS, the preterm birth rate among black women is 51 percent higher than other races in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, women of color are most at risk of facing birth complications: black women are three to four times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy compared to white women; and this disparity exists regardless of education or income level; and

1           WHEREAS, according to March of Dimes' Report,  
2 "Nowhere to Go," 19 of 67 counties in Alabama were identified  
3 as maternal care deserts, where women lack access to maternity  
4 care services; and

5           WHEREAS, access to health insurance coverage through  
6 Medicaid expansion and the filling of coverage gaps is integral  
7 to people's ability to obtain necessary health care services  
8 including preconception, prenatal, maternity, postpartum, and  
9 interconception care -- the care necessary to reduce the  
10 incidence of preterm birth -- and lead productive lives; now  
11 therefore,

12           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama State Senate and  
14 House of Representatives will seek to further improve data  
15 collection around maternal outcomes in order to appropriately  
16 reduce the incidence of maternal mortality and morbidity; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to improve  
18 maternal health outcomes, the Legislature, the March of Dimes  
19 and our partners support and encourage innovative policies and  
20 solutions that address the persistent disparities in health  
21 care access and outcomes in order to assure healthy  
22 pregnancies and reduction in premature birth.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this  
24 resolution shall be provided for appropriate presentation and  
25 display.