

1 SJR33
2 205525-2
3 By Senators Livingston, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,
4 Burkette, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Holley, Jones, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier,
7 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 27-FEB-20

1 SJR33

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4 ENROLLED, SJR33,

5 SUPPORTING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE.

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7 WHEREAS, counties in the United States routinely
8 provide treatment services to the estimated two million people
9 with serious mental illnesses who are jailed each year; and

10 WHEREAS, people in jails are three to six times more
11 likely than people in the general population to have serious
12 mental illnesses; and

13 WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of jailed adults with
14 serious mental illnesses also have substance-use disorders;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay
17 longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of
18 recidivism than people without these disorders; and

19 WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more
20 on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions
21 compared to adults without those treatment needs; and

22 WHEREAS, without appropriate treatment and services,
23 people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the
24 criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes
25 for these individuals and their families; and

1 WHEREAS, adults with mental illness have three times
2 longer boarding times in hospital emergency departments; and

3 WHEREAS, hospitals incur a direct loss of
4 approximately \$1,200 per emergency room visit for people with
5 mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama takes pride in its
7 responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and
8 safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, through Stepping Up, the Alabama Department
11 of Mental Health, the National Association of Counties, the
12 Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American
13 Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public,
14 private, and non-profit partners to reduce the number of
15 people with mental illnesses in jails and hospitals; now
16 therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body signs on to the Call
19 to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses
20 in our county jails and hospitals, commits to sharing lessons
21 learned around the state, and encourages all county officials,
22 employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR33
Senate 27-FEB-20
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 10-MAR-20

By: Senator Livingston