

1 SJR33  
2 205525-1  
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

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 SUPPORTING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE.

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

13 WHEREAS, people in jails are three to six times more  
14 likely than people in the general population to have serious  
15 mental illnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of jailed adults with  
17 serious mental illnesses also have substance-use disorders;  
18 and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, without appropriate treatment and services,  
26 people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the

1 criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes  
2 for these individuals and their families; and

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

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

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

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

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