

HJR40 INTRODUCED



1 HJR40
2 89QG2H2-1
3 By Representatives Baker, Collins, Drummond, Estes
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 06-Feb-25



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HJR_____ EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL
EDUCATION BOARD CRISIS RECOVERY SUPPORT NETWORK.

WHEREAS, after natural disasters like hurricanes,
tornadoes and floods, after school shootings, and in public
emergencies, recovery must be prioritized as a long-term
process, rather than an immediate response only; and

WHEREAS, states, districts, and postsecondary
institutions have focused on crisis prevention and
management but may not have the capacity to provide
sustained support for their students, teachers, communities,
and even their own counselors during the recovery stage; and

WHEREAS, rural districts and institutions in
particular tend to have fewer counselors and limited access
to additional counseling resources; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are often expected to
respond to student needs after tragedy, even as they
themselves grapple with the emotional toll, underscoring the
need for external support for the entire school community;
and

WHEREAS, schools and institutions affected by crisis
may require at least a year of dedicated support to fully
recover; and

WHEREAS, recovery efforts can strain resources that
are already stretched thin, given that a National Center for



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29 Education Statistics study showed that less than half of
30 public schools surveyed believe that their school is able to
31 provide mental health services to all students in need; and

32 WHEREAS, recovery is an extended healing process for
33 students and adults alike, and having additional counselors
34 come to the aid of a school or institution in extreme need
35 supports the healing process of all people in the community,
36 including teachers and counselors at that school; and

37 WHEREAS, specialized training for counselors is
38 essential to ensure that they have psychological first aid
39 training and provide counseling that aligns with the unique
40 needs of an educational environment; and

41 WHEREAS, research shows that students who receive
42 adequate support after a crisis are more likely to succeed
43 academically, remain in school, and contribute positively to
44 society; and

45 WHEREAS, the Southern Regional Education Board
46 (SREB), with its 75-year history of partnering with states
47 to improve education, is uniquely equipped to lead this
48 effort because of its ability to mobilize key education and
49 policymaking stakeholders at all levels; now therefore,

50 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
51 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That to meet the urgent need for
52 a coordinated, region-wide effort to provide consistent
53 long-term counseling capacity that is ready to deploy
54 immediately after a crisis is managed, the Legislature
55 supports the SREB Crisis Recovery Support Network; the
56 Southern Regional Education Board, in close collaboration



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57 with governors' offices, state education agencies, local
58 districts, and postsecondary institutions, will complement
59 existing school and district crisis management efforts by
60 focusing on long-term healing and psychological resilience
61 by deploying counselors with specialized training to schools
62 in extreme need; and will hire a coordinator for the network
63 and cover travel costs for counselors during training and
64 deployment.