

## HR35 INTRODUCED



1 HR35  
2 46QV3RI-1  
3 By Representatives Baker, Collins, Drummond, Estes  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 06-Feb-25



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HR\_\_\_\_\_ 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



## HR35 INTRODUCED

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
51 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That to meet the urgent need for a  
52 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



## HR35 INTRODUCED

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.