

# HJR315 ENROLLED



1 HJR315  
2 5VPV56M-2  
3 By Representatives Daniels, England, Lands, Jackson, Jones,  
4 Hall, Warren, Gray  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 31-Mar-26



## HJR315 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL

4 DELEGATION.

5

6 WHEREAS, Alabama's hospitals have provided  
7 exceptional, quality care in communities across Alabama for  
8 over 100 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Alabama's hospitals not only provide care to  
10 patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but also  
11 generate over \$25 billion economic impact in Alabama each  
12 year, directly employing 77,000 people; and

13 WHEREAS, each hospital job supports another job in  
14 the community and rural hospitals are often the largest  
15 employer in its area; and

16 WHEREAS, hospitals in Alabama are facing significant  
17 challenges with high rates of uninsured patients, a  
18 population with chronic conditions, and the lowest Medicare  
19 reimbursement rate in the country, forcing eight rural  
20 hospitals to close since 2011; and

21 WHEREAS, the formula for calculating the Medicare  
22 hospital wage index is seriously flawed, heavily distorted  
23 by exceptions, and creates a self-perpetuating disadvantage  
24 for low-wage and rural states, resulting in Alabama  
25 hospitals being paid substantially less for the same care;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, reforming the wage index is essential to  
28 ensure access to care for every American, especially those



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29 in rural states; and

30 WHEREAS, the Alabama Congressional Delegation has  
31 encouraged the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to  
32 address the wage index disparity by implementing a rule  
33 change to reflect modern patterns in labor commuting for  
34 rural health care workers; now therefore,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
36 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body  
37 express our gratitude to the Alabama Congressional  
38 Delegation for their commitment to finding relief to this  
39 decades old problem that has crippled hospitals.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the Centers  
41 for Medicare and Medicaid Services to consider an adjustment  
42 to the wage index through rulemaking to ensure an equitable  
43 Medicare payment formula for all hospitals to protect access  
44 to care for all Americans.

