

HJR315 INTRODUCED



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



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HJR___ EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, reforming the wage index is essential to



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29 ensure access to care for every American, especially those
30 in rural states; and

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

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

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