

## SJR20 ENROLLED



1 SJR20

2 L5IXGAW-2

3 By Senators Coleman-Madison, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot,  
4 Beasley, Bell, Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,  
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,  
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,  
7 Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods

9 RFD: Rules

10 First Read: 21-Jan-26



## SJR20 Enrolled

1    Enrolled, An Act,

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4    SJR\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING THE ALABAMA BIRTH EQUITY INITIATIVE FOR  
5    ITS EFFORTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EXPECTING MOTHERS  
6    THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

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8            WHEREAS, Alabama has one of the highest infant and  
9    maternal mortality rates in the United States, and 34  
10   percent of Alabama's counties have been classified as  
11   maternity health care deserts due to a lack of birthing  
12   facilities and prenatal health care providers, which  
13   disproportionately affects rural Alabama and Black and  
14   Indigenous populations; and

15           WHEREAS, the Alabama Birth Equity Initiative is a  
16   Black women-led coalition of reproductive health and mutual  
17   aid organizations who have allied to combat the state's  
18   maternal mortality crisis by building community-centered  
19   solutions, including midwifery training, mobile health, and  
20   policy advocacy to ensure safe, dignified, and equitable  
21   birthing care; they focus on integrated responses to  
22   systemic issues such as medical racism, food insecurity, and  
23   violence; and

24           WHEREAS, in its goal to expand midwifery, the  
25   initiative is launching a midwifery training pilot program  
26   to fund the preceptor training of eight student Certified  
27   Practicing Midwives and two Certified Nurse Midwives at the  
28   Alabama Birth Center in Huntsville and Oasis Women's Health



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29 in Birmingham; the initiative also has plans to advocate for  
30 policy changes that will fund rural birth centers and  
31 increase availability to prenatal care; in addition, the  
32 initiative is planning mobile health units to provide  
33 reproductive health care services in rural communities; and,  
34 with the knowledge that a safe birth starts long before  
35 labor begins, the coalition will address the wraparound  
36 issues of stable housing, reliable transportation, 24-hour  
37 food pantries, and child care support; the initiative wants  
38 women to not just survive childbirth, but to also thrive as  
39 mothers; and

40 WHEREAS, Alabama's maternal health crisis is not just  
41 about a lack of doctors or closed hospitals; it is about the  
42 way policy, poverty, and racism have worked together to make  
43 safe birth a privilege instead of a right; now therefore,

44 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
45 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Birth Equity  
46 Initiative is highly commended for combining the missions of  
47 its member organizations to address the maternal health  
48 crisis among Alabama's rural, Black, and Indigenous  
49 communities by advocating for policy changes, piloting a  
50 midwife program, instituting the concept of mobile health  
51 units, and addressing the wraparound issues that are a  
52 factor in successful births; we offer this resolution in  
53 support of the initiative, its members, and its mission to  
54 provide prenatal care and safe birthing centers to Alabama's  
55 neglected communities.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR20

Senate 21-Jan-26

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and  
passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Passed: 29-Jan-26

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By: Senator Coleman-Madison