

SJR20 INTRODUCED



1 SJR20
2 L5IXGAW-1
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, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 21-Jan-26



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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.