

1 HJR122  
2 206655-1  
3 By Representatives Rafferty, Chestnut, Forte, Clarke, Daniels,  
4 Howard, Jones (S), Jackson, Boyd, Morris, Moore (M), Hollis,  
5 McCampbell, Drummond, Hatcher, Gray, Rogers, Hall, Givan and  
6 Coleman  
7 RFD: Rules  
8 First Read: 12-MAR-20

EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF  
THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE AND URGING THE GOVERNOR TO IMMEDIATELY  
EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR NEW MOTHERS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE  
CARE ACT IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA IN RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE CURRENT RURAL HEALTH CARE CRISIS.

WHEREAS, new mothers in Alabama are suffering  
because of their lack of access to postpartum health care; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, the world was stunned by  
an outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter on February 4, 2020, the  
United States government declared the novel coronavirus a  
public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the United States has 1,109 confirmed cases  
and 31 deaths reported from the virus as of March 11, 2020;  
and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the current classification  
of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, a  
COVID-19 outbreak in the State of Alabama could be devastating  
to the state's economy and the health of our citizens; and

1           WHEREAS, failure to expand Medicaid ensures that  
2 many Alabamians who may become infected will go undiagnosed  
3 and untreated; people for whom going to the doctor would  
4 result in financial calamity tend not to do so before their  
5 health circumstances become dire; and

6           WHEREAS, while pregnancy-related death rates have  
7 been dropping worldwide, they have more than doubled in the  
8 United States in the past 30 years, rising from seven deaths  
9 per 100,000 live births in 1987, to 17 in 2016, according to  
10 the CDC; and

11           WHEREAS, Alabama women die from pregnancy and  
12 childbirth complications at more than double the rate of women  
13 nationally, according to new numbers from the National Center  
14 for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and  
15 Prevention; and

16           WHEREAS, Alabama now ranks third highest in the  
17 nation in maternal death rates, behind Arkansas and Kentucky;  
18 and Alabama's most current recorded rate is 36.4 maternal  
19 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to the national rate  
20 of 17.4; now therefore,

21           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of the Democratic  
23 Party urge the Governor of the State of Alabama to move past  
24 politics and partisanship and in the best interest of all  
25 Alabamians, expand Medicaid in this state under the Patient  
26 Protection and Affordable Care Act to enhance access to health  
27 care, reduce maternal mortality rates, promote revenue and

1 economic activity, save and create jobs in this state, and  
2 protect the wellbeing of the mothers and children of Alabama.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
4 resolution be sent to Governor Kay Ivey, that she may know of  
5 the strong sentiments of the Democratic members of the  
6 Legislature concerning this issue.