

1 SJR9
2 179251-3
3 By Senators Beasley, Singleton, Ross and Dunn
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 17-AUG-16

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8 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO IMMEDIATELY EXPAND MEDICAID
9 UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

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11 WHEREAS, the question of how to provide
12 comprehensive, quality health care to all Alabamians
13 regardless of income, health status, age, or gender has been
14 one the Alabama Legislature has asked itself time and time
15 again; and

16 WHEREAS, Alabamians are suffering because of their
17 lack of access to health care; and

18 WHEREAS, broader access to health care leads to
19 preventive care, which produces healthier families, a
20 healthier workforce, and an all-around healthier state; with
21 the expansion of Medicaid, hundreds of thousands of Alabamians
22 will have access to preventive care versus acute care for the
23 first time in their lives; and

24 WHEREAS, a 2012 study from the School of Public
25 Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
26 estimates that 300,000 additional Alabamians would be eligible
27 for health coverage should Medicaid be expanded, with a

1 majority of those people being employed, working Alabamians;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid will result in
4 reduced state spending on health care related services to
5 those previously uninsured residents with incomes below 133
6 percent of the federal poverty limit; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 UAB study, a \$1
8 increase in federal spending on Medicaid yields an additional
9 65-75 cents of economic activity; and

10 WHEREAS, according to a 2013 study conducted by the
11 Culverhouse College of Commerce at the University of Alabama,
12 Medicaid expansion would create tens of billions in overall
13 business activity through 2020 and approximately 30,000 new
14 jobs would be created in the following industries: 11,290 jobs
15 in health care and social assistance; 6,390 jobs in retail
16 trade; 5,490 jobs in professional, scientific, and technical
17 services; 1,423 jobs in administrative and other support
18 services; 1,247 jobs in accommodation and food service; and
19 1,095 jobs in the finance and insurance industry; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal government will pay 100 percent
21 of the Medicaid expansion until 2017; the federal government's
22 share will decrease to 95 percent in 2017 and ultimately to 90
23 percent by 2020; and

24 WHEREAS, with the additional revenue and economic
25 activity that would be generated from expanding Medicaid, the
26 cost to the State of Alabama would be more than covered; and

1 WHEREAS, if Medicaid is not expanded, the State of
2 Alabama stands to lose billions in federal funds which are
3 Alabamians' tax dollars going to provide health care in other
4 states; and

5 WHEREAS, Alabama's hospitals have experienced cuts
6 that equal millions of dollars due to the Governor's refusal
7 to expand Medicaid which has placed a tremendous financial
8 strain on hospitals resulting in elimination of services, loss
9 of jobs, and even hospital closures thus reducing access to
10 care for every Alabamian; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
12 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Governor of the State of
13 Alabama is urged to expand Medicaid immediately in this state
14 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to
15 enhance access to health care, promote revenue and economic
16 activity, and to save and create jobs in this state.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
18 resolution be sent forthwith to Governor Robert Bentley that
19 he may know of our strong sentiments concerning this issue.