

1       SJR121  
2       130606-1  
3       By Senator Brewbaker  
4       RFD:  
5       First Read: 05-MAY-11

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8 COMMENDING JOHN KENTON HUNT FOR ACHIEVEMENT AND  
9 SERVICE.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that John  
12 Kenton Hunt is recognized for his distinguished service to the  
13 State of Alabama over the span of 36 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunt is retiring on July 31, 2011, from  
15 his position with the Department of Mental Health; and

16 WHEREAS, he began his employment with the Department  
17 of Mental Health in 1977 as an Alcoholism Prevention  
18 Coordinator and was promoted steadily, fulfilling each  
19 position with exceptional competence and commitment while  
20 gaining experience in all aspects of community based  
21 prevention and treatment services; and

22 WHEREAS, in November 1999, he was appointed as the  
23 first Associate Commissioner for the Department of Mental  
24 Health; and

25 WHEREAS, highlights of his career include: he  
26 chaired the Alabama Commission for the Prevention and  
27 Treatment of Substance Abuse; served on the Board of the

1 National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
2 as the Region IV representative and was elected Vice President  
3 for Internal Affairs; chaired the National Association of  
4 State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors Annual Meeting  
5 Committee and hosted the 2008 Annual Meeting in Alabama, which  
6 brought more than 300 national substance abuse prevention and  
7 treatment experts to Alabama; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition, he was appointed by the Chief  
9 Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court to serve on the Drug  
10 Court Task Force in 2010 and chaired the Substance Abuse  
11 Treatment Subcommittee of the Drug Court Task Force; and

12 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Associate Commissioner  
13 of the Department of Mental Health, the budget for substance  
14 abuse prevention and treatment increased by 45 percent from  
15 \$33 million to \$48 million, while state funding grew by 300  
16 percent from \$4.2 million to \$17.7 million; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunt managed the public substance abuse  
18 system that provides prevention and treatment services to  
19 approximately 125,000 needy Alabamians annually; and

20 WHEREAS, he served as the Associate Commissioner for  
21 Substance Abuse Services until January 18, 2011, when he was  
22 assigned to guide the Department in the areas of Health Care  
23 Reform and Mental Health Parity; and

24 WHEREAS, among his honors and recognitions, Mr. Hunt  
25 received the 2011 Carl Nowell Leadership Award, which is  
26 presented to an individual selected by peers for "Hard Work

1       and Devotion" to the field of Drug Prevention, Treatment, and  
2       Recovery; now therefore,

3               BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4       HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That on the occasion of his  
5       retirement and in recognition of his many outstanding  
6       achievements and dedicated service, highest commendation is  
7       herein extended to John Kenton Hunt, for whom a copy of this  
8       resolution is provided as evidence of our esteem and  
9       appreciation, along with best wishes in all future endeavors.