

1 SJR15
2 135967-1
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12

8 COMMENDING THE VERIZON FOUNDATION FOR ITS STRONG
9 SUPPORT OF THE AWARD-WINNING SIGHT SAVERS AMERICA KIDCHECK
10 PROGRAM.

11
12 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic
13 arm of Verizon, uses its technology, financial resources, and
14 partnerships to address critical social issues, with a focus
15 on education and domestic violence prevention and improving
16 access to health care; and

17 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation provided a \$100,000
18 grant to Sight Savers America to utilize technology for its
19 KidCheck health screening program in Alabama public school
20 systems; and

21 WHEREAS, KidCheck began as a state program that was
22 created in 2008 by Governor Bob Riley's Alabama Rural Action
23 Commission before becoming a new department of Sight Savers
24 America, an Alabama-based nonprofit, in 2011; and

25 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation has been a proactive
26 champion utilizing wireless technology to improve the health
27 of Alabama's children; and

1 WHEREAS, more than 16,000 Alabama school children
2 will receive a free, wireless comprehensive health screening
3 this school year through this Verizon Foundation grant; and

4 WHEREAS, KidCheck received the AUM Center for
5 Government's 2009 Innovative Alabama Governments Award as the
6 Most Innovative Program at the State/Region Level; and

7 WHEREAS, the Business Council of Alabama cited
8 KidCheck as a measurable program that should be supported as a
9 means to contain long-term health care costs; and

10 WHEREAS, with the support of the Verizon Foundation,
11 the KidCheck Program is improving Alabama children's health,
12 and we all recognize that a healthy child is best able to
13 reach his or her full potential in the classroom and beyond;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation's investment in
16 Alabama's school children will result in long-term cost
17 savings to Alabama taxpayers; and

18 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation recognizes the power
19 of collaboration that is created through the KidCheck
20 Program's partnerships with local school systems, two- and
21 four-year college nursing schools, as well as state agencies
22 including State Department of Education, Alabama Department of
23 Public Health, ALL Kids, Medicaid, the Alabama Department of
24 Postsecondary Education, and the Alabama Rural Development
25 Office; and

1 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation recognizes that
2 there is no other program like KidCheck in the country, and
3 the program could be a national model for other states; and

4 WHEREAS, the Verizon Foundation has encouraged other
5 foundations to join them in supporting KidCheck to further
6 expand the program; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we commend the Verizon
9 Foundation for supporting the Sight Savers America KidCheck
10 Program that uses technology to improve the health of
11 Alabama's school children and, by copy of this resolution to
12 the foundation, we convey our admiration and appreciation.