

1 HJR472
2 142535-1
3 By Representative Merrill
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-MAY-12

8 URGING STATE AGENCIES TO EXAMINE HOW THE STATE CAN
9 IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF ITS CITIZENS BY
10 IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF
11 THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

12
13 WHEREAS, over 100 million adults suffer from chronic
14 pain, including millions with debilitating conditions like
15 chronic lower back pain, fibromyalgia and arthritis; and

16 WHEREAS, chronic pain costs America up to \$635
17 billion a year in added health costs and lost productivity,
18 including billions of dollars in state Medicaid costs; and

19 WHEREAS, chronic pain is a major public health
20 problem and hidden driver of rising health care costs; and

21 WHEREAS, significant barriers to adequate pain care
22 exist and millions of Americans get inadequate pain care; and

23 WHEREAS, these findings were made by the prestigious
24 Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of
25 Sciences in its landmark report issued in 2011, Relieving Pain
26 in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care,
27 Education and Research; and

1 WHEREAS, the IOM report includes a number of
2 recommendations to improve pain care, education, and research;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the IOM report found that significant
5 savings could be achieved through better treatment of acute
6 pain, reduction in workers' compensation costs and lost tax
7 revenues and a reduced burden of opioid abuse and misuse; now
8 therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That state agencies are urged to
11 examine how the state can improve the health and productivity
12 of its citizens and reduce personal and government health
13 expenditures by implementing the recommendations of the
14 Relieving Pain in America Report of the Institute of Medicine.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
16 resolution be provided to the Alabama Department of Public
17 Health and the public medical schools of this state.