

1 SJR41
2 149188-1
3 By Senators Figures, Coleman, Dunn, Irons, Ross, Bedford,
4 Keahey, Sanders, Beasley, Singleton and Smitherman
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 21-FEB-13

8 URGING GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY TO EXPAND MEDICAID IN
9 THIS STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE
10 CARE ACT.

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

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

18 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Foundation, Alabama
19 residents visit the emergency room 20 percent more than the
20 average American, and 11.8 percent of this state's population
21 has been diagnosed with diabetes, which ranks the fourth
22 highest rate in the nation; and

23 WHEREAS, also according to the Kaiser Foundation,
24 this state has the second lowest life expectancy in years in
25 the nation, is second in the nation in heart disease related
26 deaths, 231.5 deaths per 100,000 people, and is third in the

1 nation in infant mortality rates, 9.5 deaths per 1,000 live
2 births; and

3 WHEREAS, broad access to health care leads to
4 preventative care, which produces healthier families, a
5 healthier workforce, and an all around healthier state; with
6 the expansion of Medicaid, hundreds of thousands of Alabamians
7 will have access to critical preventive care versus acute care
8 for the first time in their lives; and

9 WHEREAS, the 2012 federal poverty level for a family
10 of four is \$23,050, and a study from the School of Public
11 Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
12 estimates that 300,000 additional Alabamians would be eligible
13 for Medicaid under the expansion to cover 133 percent of the
14 federal poverty level; and

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

19 WHEREAS, according to a study at UAB, Shelby,
20 Blount, and Baldwin Counties have the largest percentage of
21 uninsured residents among their low-income populations that
22 would be newly eligible under the expansion; and

23 WHEREAS, the federal government will pay 100 percent
24 of the Medicaid expansion for three years starting in 2014;
25 after that time, the federal government's share will drop to
26 95 percent in 2017, and ultimately to 90 percent in 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, according to a study at UAB, a \$1 increase
2 in federal spending on Medicaid yields an additional 65 to 75
3 cents of economic activity; and

4 WHEREAS, the flow of 11.7 billion federal dollars
5 would generate an additional \$8.1 billion of economic activity
6 from 2014 through 2020; Medicaid expansion would generate
7 nearly \$20 billion in economic activity in this state; and

8 WHEREAS, the cost of expansion to this state would
9 be 771 million dollars; however, over \$1.7 billion in
10 additional state tax revenues would be generated during this
11 period, resulting in an increase of tax revenues flowing into
12 the state budget in an amount of \$935 million from 2014
13 through 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, with the additional revenue and economic
15 activity, expansion of Medicaid will save and create jobs
16 within this state; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Governor of the State of
19 Alabama is urged to expand Medicaid in this state under the
20 federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to enhance
21 access to health care, promote revenue and economic activity,
22 and to save and create jobs in this state.

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