

1 HJR216  
2 168669-1  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 07-MAY-15

8 RECOGNIZING MAY 14, 2015, AS ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DAY  
9 AT THE STATE CAPITOL.

10  
11 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease  
12 Control and Prevention, atrial fibrillation is a common type  
13 of arrhythmia, an abnormal heart rhythm; and

14 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias  
15 occur when the electrical activity of the heart is  
16 disorganized, causing an irregular heartbeat that disrupts the  
17 flow of blood through the heart; and

18 WHEREAS, nonvalvular atrial fibrillation, which  
19 makes up approximately 95 percent of atrial fibrillation, is  
20 estimated to affect 5.8 million people in the United States;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, risk factors for atrial fibrillation  
23 include high blood pressure, heart failure, diabetes, advance  
24 age, hyperthyroidism, and heart disease; and

25 WHEREAS, those with atrial fibrillation have a risk  
26 of stroke that is five times greater than those without, and

1       15 to 20 percent of all people who have strokes also have  
2       atrial fibrillation; and

3               WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death  
4       in the United States, resulting in one person in this country  
5       dying from stroke every four minutes; and

6               WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of long-term  
7       disability, and stroke survivors are more likely to become  
8       disabled and experience difficulties with daily living and  
9       activities; and

10              WHEREAS, according to the National Stroke  
11       Association, African Americans are twice as likely to die from  
12       stroke as Caucasians, and the rate of first strokes in African  
13       Americans is almost double that of Caucasians; and

14              WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation is a serious health  
15       issue deserving attention from state health officials; an  
16       increase in community awareness of atrial fibrillation and its  
17       complications can improve the likelihood that people with  
18       atrial fibrillation will seek the treatment they need before  
19       suffering from devastating consequences; now therefore,

20              BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
21       HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we encourage our members and  
22       constituents to partner with the State Department of Public  
23       Health, medical communities, and community-based organizations  
24       to raise awareness about the risks posed by atrial  
25       fibrillation and stroke, as well as the availability of  
26       treatment options, and recognize May 14, 2015, as Atrial  
27       Fibrillation Day at the Alabama State Capitol.

