

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

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House
2 of Representatives is directed to make appropriate copies of
3 this resolution available for distribution to the public and
4 the press.