

1 SJR39
2 182845-1
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 28-FEB-17

8 RECOGNIZING JANUARY 31 AS THE ANNUAL DATE FOR
9 INTERNATIONAL OMPHALOCELE AWARENESS DAY IN ALABAMA AND
10 COMMENDING THE SUPPORT GROUP MOTHERS OF OMPHALOCELES FOR ITS
11 ADVOCACY EFFORTS.

12
13 WHEREAS, we have a major responsibility to advocate
14 much needed awareness surrounding the birth defect omphalocele
15 to ensure the greatest quality of life for the children
16 affected by the condition; and

17 WHEREAS, the birth defect omphalocele occurs early
18 in pregnancy when the abdominal wall does not close properly
19 and when some or most of the abdominal organs protrude on the
20 outside of the baby's body through the umbilical cord; it is
21 estimated that a small omphalocele occurs in about one out of
22 every 5,000 pregnancies and that a giant omphalocele occurs in
23 about one out of every 10,000 pregnancies; and

24 WHEREAS, an omphalocele may be isolated or
25 associated with other defects or chromosomal abnormalities;
26 despite the challenges babies born with omphaloceles might

1 face, they typically survive to lead healthy, fulfilling
2 lives; and

3 WHEREAS, by increasing awareness around
4 omphaloceles, families will receive pertinent information that
5 assures them the condition is not a death sentence; imperative
6 facts about omphaloceles also need to be brought to the
7 attention of doctors and medical staff so that termination is
8 not offered as a solution; and

9 WHEREAS, Mothers of Omphaloceles (MOO) is a support
10 group that consists of almost 2,000 parents, family members,
11 and survivors worldwide created in an effort to provide hope,
12 support, and information to families with babies diagnosed
13 with omphaloceles and any related abnormalities; now
14 therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize Mothers of
17 Omphaloceles for courageous efforts on behalf of babies
18 diagnosed with omphaloceles and for informing the public and
19 medical personnel that it is a treatable condition, and we
20 also recognize January 31 as the annual date of International
21 Omphalocele Awareness Day in Alabama.