SJR85
200073-1
By Senator Figures
RFD:
First Read: 21-MAY-19
RECOGNIZING MARCH OF DIMES DAY.

WHEREAS, March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies; March of Dimes does this by supporting research, leading programs, providing education and advocacy, and mobilizing the nation by amplifying the voices of all women and families; and

WHEREAS, twelve percent of Alabama's babies are born prematurely each year; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is one of only four states to have received a grade of "F" on the March of Dimes 2018 Premature Birth Report Card; and

WHEREAS, the preterm birth rate among black women is 51 percent higher than other races in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, women of color are most at risk of facing birth complications: black women are three to four times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy compared to white women; and this disparity exists regardless of education or income level; and
WHEREAS, according to March of Dimes' Report, "Nowhere to Go," 19 of 67 counties in Alabama were identified as maternal care deserts, where women lack access to maternity care services; and

WHEREAS, access to health insurance coverage through Medicaid expansion and the filing of coverage gaps is integral to people's ability to obtain necessary health care services including preconception, prenatal, maternity, postpartum, and interconception care -- the care necessary to reduce the incidence of preterm birth -- and lead productive lives; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama State Senate and House of Representatives will seek to further improve data collection around maternal outcomes in order to appropriately reduce the incidence of maternal mortality and morbidity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to improve maternal health outcomes, the Legislature, the March of Dimes and our partners support and encourage innovative policies and solutions that address the persistent disparities in health care access and outcomes in order to assure healthy pregnancies and reduction in premature birth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be provided for appropriate presentation and display.