HJR122

206655-1

By Representatives Rafferty, Chestnut, Forte, Clarke, Daniels, Howard, Jones (S), Jackson, Boyd, Morris, Moore (M), Hollis, McCampbell, Drummond, Hatcher, Gray, Rogers, Hall, Givan and Coleman

RFD: Rules

First Read: 12-MAR-20
EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF
THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE AND URGING THE GOVERNOR TO IMMEDIATELY
EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR NEW MOTHERS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA IN RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE CURRENT RURAL HEALTH CARE CRISIS.

WHEREAS, new mothers in Alabama are suffering
because of their lack of access to postpartum health care; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, the world was stunned by
an outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter on February 4, 2020, the
United States government declared the novel coronavirus a
public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the United States has 1,109 confirmed cases
and 31 deaths reported from the virus as of March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the current classification
of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, a
COVID-19 outbreak in the State of Alabama could be devastating
to the state's economy and the health of our citizens; and
WHEREAS, failure to expand Medicaid ensures that many Alabamians who may become infected will go undiagnosed and untreated; people for whom going to the doctor would result in financial calamity tend not to do so before their health circumstances become dire; and

WHEREAS, while pregnancy-related death rates have been dropping worldwide, they have more than doubled in the United States in the past 30 years, rising from seven deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987, to 17 in 2016, according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, Alabama women die from pregnancy and childbirth complications at more than double the rate of women nationally, according to new numbers from the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Alabama now ranks third highest in the nation in maternal death rates, behind Arkansas and Kentucky; and Alabama's most current recorded rate is 36.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to the national rate of 17.4; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of the Democratic Party urge the Governor of the State of Alabama to move past politics and partisanship and in the best interest of all Alabamians, expand Medicaid in this state under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to enhance access to health care, reduce maternal mortality rates, promote revenue and
economic activity, save and create jobs in this state, and
protect the wellbeing of the mothers and children of Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
resolution be sent to Governor Kay Ivey, that she may know of
the strong sentiments of the Democratic members of the
Legislature concerning this issue.