SJR34

166046-2

By Senators Pittman, Albritton, Melson, Bussman, Scofield, Allen, Sanford, Holtzclaw, Glover, Brewbaker, Waggoner, Shelnutt, Hightower, Stutts, Ward, McClendon, Livingston, Reed, Whatley, Orr and Williams

RFD:

First Read: 16-APR-15
EXPRESSING THE INTENTION OF THE LEGISLATURE NOT TO
EXPAND MEDICAID SERVICES IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, the federal government authorized the expansion of Medicaid services as a provision of the federally mandated Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of Medicaid, as provided for in the Affordable Care Act, or through waivers, would cause future bodies of the Alabama Legislature and the taxpayers of Alabama to share the cost for many years; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would dramatically increase the number of Alabamians dependent upon public assistance; and

WHEREAS, the state should pursue reforms based on reducing Medicaid dependence, rather than increasing dependence; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has rejected all state-proposed work requirements tied to Medicaid eligibility under expansion through waivers; and
WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid would further strain the state General Fund, where Medicaid is already the largest line-item; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to build upon the reforms of 2012 and continue to work toward repairing the problems within the existing system and ensuring that the most vulnerable citizens of Alabama have access to quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has no intention of allocating funds to support Medicaid expansion; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we express our intention that the State of Alabama not expand Medicaid above its current eligibility levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to Governor Robert Bentley and the members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.