

1 HR190
2 200499-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-MAY-19

RECOGNIZING SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019, AS MARCH OF DIMES DAY.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all mothers and babies 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 that 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

1 WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes report,
2 "Nowhere to Go," 19 counties in Alabama were identified as
3 maternal care deserts, where women lack access to maternity
4 care services; and

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

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
13 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we recognize Sunday, May 12,
14 2019, as March of Dimes Day, as a day to honor mothers and
15 resolve to work with the March of Dimes and its partners to
16 continue to support and encourage innovative policies and
17 solutions that address the persistent disparities in health
18 care access and outcomes in order to assure healthy mothers
19 and strong babies; a copy of this resolution shall be provided
20 for appropriate presentation and display.