

1 HJR472  
2 142535-2  
3 By Representative Merrill  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 09-MAY-12

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3           URGING STATE AGENCIES TO EXAMINE HOW THE STATE CAN  
4 IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF ITS CITIZENS BY  
5 IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF  
6 THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

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8           WHEREAS, over 100 million adults suffer from chronic  
9 pain, including millions with debilitating conditions like  
10 chronic lower back pain, fibromyalgia and arthritis; and

11           WHEREAS, chronic pain costs America up to \$635  
12 billion a year in added health costs and lost productivity,  
13 including billions of dollars in state Medicaid costs; and

14           WHEREAS, chronic pain is a major public health  
15 problem and hidden driver of rising health care costs; and

16           WHEREAS, significant barriers to adequate pain care  
17 exist and millions of Americans get inadequate pain care; and

18           WHEREAS, these findings were made by the prestigious  
19 Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of  
20 Sciences in its landmark report issued in 2011, Relieving Pain  
21 in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care,  
22 Education and Research; and

23           WHEREAS, the IOM report includes a number of  
24 recommendations to improve pain care, education, and research;  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, the IOM report found that significant  
2 savings could be achieved through better treatment of acute  
3 pain, reduction in workers' compensation costs and lost tax  
4 revenues and a reduced burden of opioid abuse and misuse; now  
5 therefore,

6           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That state agencies are urged to  
8 examine how the state can improve the health and productivity  
9 of its citizens and reduce personal and government health  
10 expenditures by implementing the recommendations of the  
11 Relieving Pain in America Report of the Institute of Medicine.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
13 resolution be provided to the Alabama Department of Public  
14 Health and the public medical schools of this state.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 10-MAY-12.

Greg Pappas  
Clerk

Senate

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16-MAY-12

Adopted