

1 SR108  
2 153315-1  
3 By Senator Smitherman  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 02-MAY-13

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8 URGING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION TO CONTRACT  
9 WITH PRIVATE PHYSICIANS IN THE COUNTY TO CREATE AN APPROPRIATE  
10 PRIMARY CARE NETWORK TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO THE INDIGENT  
11 RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY.

12  
13 WHEREAS, a 1965 Act of the Alabama Legislature  
14 created a dedicated revenue stream to provide for the health  
15 care needs of indigent residents of Jefferson County; and

16 WHEREAS, as a result of the act, approximately  
17 forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000) is collected annually  
18 for the express purpose of indigent health care; and

19 WHEREAS, an analysis by leadership of Jefferson  
20 County estimates that the county has approximately 100,000  
21 residents living in poverty and more than 30,000 who should  
22 have their health care covered by the county's indigent fund;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the ill-advised decision by the Jefferson  
25 County Commission to abruptly close Cooper Greene Mercy  
26 Hospital, the hospital that provided much of the care received

1 by the county's indigent population, is causing undue hardship  
2 on the county's poorest and sickest residents; and

3 WHEREAS, the county's indigent residents now have  
4 few if any options for their care as the county commission has  
5 chosen to not fulfill its obligation, as specified by law; and

6 WHEREAS, the actions of the county have now shifted  
7 the responsibility of health care for the county's indigent  
8 residents 100 percent onto private physicians and hospitals in  
9 the county that are receiving no payments for providing the  
10 care; and

11 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Jefferson County  
12 Commission take action immediately, to contract with private  
13 physicians in the county to create an appropriate primary care  
14 network, and establish an appropriate reimbursement process  
15 for all physicians and hospitals in Jefferson County that are  
16 now providing health care to the county's indigent residents;  
17 now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
19 ALABAMA, That we urge the Jefferson County Commission to  
20 contract with private physicians in the county to create an  
21 appropriate primary care network to provide health care to the  
22 indigent residents of the county.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
24 resolution be provided to each member of the Jefferson County  
25 Commission.