

Resolution

Commending

The Department of Public Health

*for its efforts in implementing a policy requiring
Pulse Oximetry Testing of Newborns*

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defects (CHDs) are structural abnormalities of the heart that are present at birth; and

WHEREAS, CHDs range in severity from simple problems such holes between chambers of the heart to severe malformations such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or valves; and

WHEREAS, some critical CHDs can cause severe and life-threatening symptoms which require intervention within the first days of life; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children, congenital heart disease affects approximately seven to nine of every 1,000 live births in the United States and Europe and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that CHD is the leading cause of infant death due to birth defects; and

WHEREAS, pulse oximetry is a noninvasive test that estimates the percentage of hemoglobin in blood that is saturated with oxygen and when performed on a newborn within 24 hours after birth, pulse oximetry screening is often more effective at detecting critical, life-threatening CHDs which otherwise go undetected by current screening methods; and

WHEREAS, many newborn lives could potentially be saved by earlier detection and treatment of CHDs if birthing facilities in the state were required to perform this simple, noninvasive newborn screening in conjunction with current CHD screening methods; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE, That the Alabama Department of Public Health be commended for the efforts the department is making to implement a policy requiring that the pulse oximetry testing be completed on all newborns prior to discharge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Hospital Association, the Medical Association of Alabama, the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association also be commended for their collaborative effort working in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health to achieve this very important change in policy in the health care of newborns in Alabama.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Hospital Association, the Medical Association of Alabama, the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Heart Association be presented with a copy of this resolution.

By Representatives Lee, Baker, Ball, Bandy, Barton, Baughm, Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy, Bridges, Brown, Burdine, Buskey, Buttram, Carns, Chesteen, Clouse, Coleman, Collins, Colston, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, England, Farley, Faust, Fincher, Ford, Forte, Galliber, Gaston, Givan, Greer, Greeson, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon, Harper, Henry, Hill, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard (J), Hubbard (M), Hurst, Ison, Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Johnson (W), Jones, Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Lindsey, Long, Love, Mask, McAdory, McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon, McMillan, Melton, Merrill, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (B), Moore (M), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D), Nordgren, Oden, Patterson, Payne, Poole, Rich, Roberts, Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Sanderford, Scott, Sessions, Shiver, Thomas, Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Vance, Wallace, Warren, Weaver, Williams (D), Williams (J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren

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