SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT THE
PROVISIONS OF SECTION 16-29-1, CODE OF ALABAMA 1975.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the condition
known as scoliosis, a lateral curvature of the spine commonly ap-
pearing in adolescents, can develop into a permanent crippling disa-
bility if left untreated; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and referral, however, can often re-
sult in the successful treatment of this condition, thereby greatly
reducing the need for major surgery; and

WHEREAS, the highest risk group for the development of sco-
liosis encompasses the ages 11 through 14 or our state’s junior high
school aged students; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that Section 16-29-1, Code of Ala-
bama 1975, specifically provides that the Department of Education
and the State Board of Health shall, in conjunction, arrange for the
examination of all public school students in Alabama for a number
of physical defects and diseases including “any deformity or disloca-
tion of the hip joints or spinal disease,” no screenings for scoliosis
have been or are currently being conducted as required by said law;
now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA,
BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby di-
rect the Department of Education and the State Board of Health to
immediately implement procedures for examination of all public
school students, ages 11 through 14, for the purpose of detecting the
development of scoliosis and for referring those children with posi-
tive screenings to a trained medical professional.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said screenings shall be-
gin with the 1984-1985 school year and shall be phased in over a
period of five years after the effective date of this resolution.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That copies of this resolution be for-
warded to the State Department of Education and to the State
Board of Health that immediate steps may be taken to comply with
this directive of the Alabama Legislature and the provisions of Sec-

Approved March 26, 1984
Time: 10:50 A.M.