



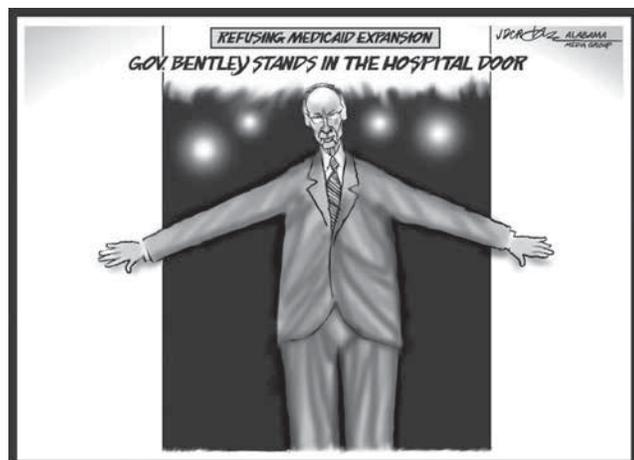
The ADVISOR

TEACHERS, EMPLOYEES, and JUDICIAL



The 60 day countdown to Alabama losing \$375 million

The federal government will pay the Medical funds quarterly. Thus, you lose the first quarterly payment if you do not join the program before year-end. Waiting until after the 2014 election would cost the state **\$1.5 billion**.



(JD Crowe 9/25/13)

Obamacare has provided Alabama Gov. Bentley with his own George Wallace moment. By refusing ACA money to expand Medicaid, Bentley is making political hay by standing in the hospital door.

Trouble is, by thumbing his nose at Obama, the good doctor is also thumbing his nose at many of Alabama's neediest men, women and children.

A University of Alabama at Birmingham study last year said that the expansion in Alabama will provide Medicaid coverage to an additional 300,000 people and generate \$20 billion in economic activity which will add \$1.7 billion in tax revenue.

Here is what one reader had to say in a comment he posted on AL.com: "Years from now folks will look back on this just as we are looking back now on George Wallace's stand in the school house door and they will wonder 'What kind of people in Alabama could have supported a man like this?' I have no party affiliation. But this man is an embarrassment to all of us." ■

JD Crowe is the statewide cartoonist for Alabama Media Group

"An Alabama Firing Squad" Should Not Be A Circle

By David G. Bronner

During my tenure at the RSA, I have defended public employees, Alabama taxpayers, and the RSA against real New York City mobsters, local crooks, and a few legislators and governors who either had a corrupt political agenda, were self-serving, or just did not want to understand the purpose of the RSA.

To be honest, trying to work with some governors has been a challenge. In my early years at the RSA, all the Democrats strongly believed I was a nasty conservative Republican because of my work with Wall Street. In recent years, the Republicans consider me a hard-core, nasty liberal Democrat.

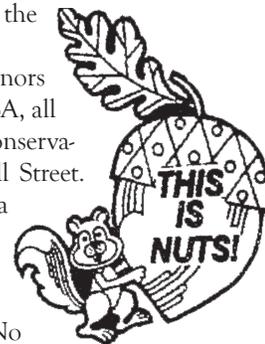
As I said decades ago, my mother was a Democrat and my father was a Republican, while I have always been an Independent. No way was I choosing between Mom or Dad, nor the 300,000+ members of the RSA who are both. My political interests are the RSA and Alabama and what I can do to improve both.

I could care less if you love or hate Obamacare! My dad would tell me "no matter what problems you have today, the sun will rise tomorrow." But to stick our head in the sand and think we are helping ourselves or the 300,000+ Alabamians by rejecting the expansion of Medicaid is simply nuts!

Alabama would be rejecting \$1.5 billion per year for three years with NO requirement to spend any state money over the 100% federally funded expansion. By not accepting OUR money to help OURselves, we might as well form "a circle for a firing squad" of our personal and state interest.

Alabamians have 60 days to politely help the current governor, "Doc" Bentley, remember what was the best virtue of the first governor I worked with. Governor Wallace, like all of us, made lots of mistakes. The one mistake he did not make was that he always cared for the poor of Alabama because he grew up dirt poor.

Let's help not only Alabama's poor but all Alabamians by offering better health care and creating jobs and economic growth. Please encourage our governor to stand up for all Alabamians and sign on to BRINGING BILLIONS OF OUR DOLLARS HOME with Medicaid expansion. ■



Editorial: *Decatur Daily* South Unites Against Its Poor

It has been said more than once that the South will rise again.

If Ol' Dixie can just get Virginia and Tennessee to reject Obamacare's Medicaid expansion, the Confederate States of America will be intact with the exception of those turncoats in Arkansas.

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama have elected not to help their poor and low-to-moderate wage earners receive health care through expanded Medicaid.

Decisions are pending in Virginia and Tennessee.

These are not the only states that have turned down the plan; 10 other states, mostly in the West and Midwest, have done the same.

But the fact that the Deep South has united in opposing the health care plan when the region is inhabited by so many poor and unhealthy people is worthy of further examination.

What – other than geographical proximity – unites us in this crusade to prolong the

physical, mental and financial anguish of our people?

On an individual basis, the South is filled with generous individuals who are willing to help those who are less fortunate.

But providing affordable health care is well beyond the capabilities of generous individuals.

The fact that we live in the midst of the Bible Belt does not explain our collective lack of compassion. Didn't the Son of Man encourage his followers to feed his sheep?

Even a Samaritan can understand the concept of treating, rather than ignoring, the sick.

One could argue that the Southern heat has baked the brains of our Republican governors, but their counterparts in states with equally warm climes have retained their mental acuity. They are willing to buck their own party for the good of their people.

It might appear that Southerners possess an aversion to federal funds, which would pay for almost all of the Medicaid expansion. But we are more than eager to take federal handouts for rural electrification,

military bases, highways and just about everything else. In Alabama, we receive \$1.66 for every \$1 we send to Washington, ranking us seventh among deadbeat states.

So, what explains our failure to take advantage of expanded Medicaid for our people? Maybe we just don't want anyone telling us what to do, even if it's in our best interest.

Maybe we've been smarting for a rematch with the federal government ever since Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Maybe we've been spoiling for a fight ever since those liberal Kennedy brothers sent their federal men down here to remove our fine governor from the schoolhouse door.

Maybe we are determined to carry out a second wave of attacks against the feds through gerrymandered districts and rules that make it more difficult for certain people to vote.

Maybe we are simply marching back onto the same old battlefield.

The South keeps rising again and again to fight on the wrong side of history. ■

Republican Governors Support Obamacare

Pennsylvania Republican Governor Tom Corbett became the 10th Republican governor to support Medicaid expansion to 682,000 people in Pennsylvania.

Kentucky's Democratic Governor Steve Beshear says it will help 308,000 people and inject \$15.6 billion of federal money into the Kentucky economy.

Governor Beshear does not name names or call people out directly, but his *New York Times* article is a brilliant implicit condemnation for the behavior of most of the Republican governors around the country. The attitude they have taken is that since no Obamacare is better than even the best possible version of Obamacare, they should try to engineer the worst possible version of Obamacare in order to hasten its demise.

As Chernyshevsky and Lenin said, "The worse, the better." And that attitude, really, has always been one of the worst sins in political radicals of different stripes. A callous willingness to sacrifice concrete human interests in the here and now in pursuit of

long-term ideological ends is a great way to make sure people end up worse off than the otherwise could be. Beshear is trying to act like a proper public official and make things

go well for people in Kentucky. Too many governors are hoping to make things go poorly and then point fingers. ■

MOST CROWDED IN THE SOUTH- A Serious Alabama Problem

Alabama prisons not only were more overcrowded than any other Southern state, they also were more than twice as crowded as prisons in 11 Southern states, according to a Southern Legislative Conference 2012 report. The closest states to Alabama's 199 percent occupancy were Kentucky at 105 percent and Arkansas at 104 percent.



Source: Southern Legislative Conference 2012 report on Corrections

*Virginia includes 1,578 private prison beds

“Your Hospital” & Medicaid Expansion

By Kim Chandler, AL.com



... Hospitals are also encouraging Bentley to change his mind, said Mike Horsley, CEO of the Alabama Hospital Association.

Hospitals are concerned about planned cuts to federal payments they get for the uncompensated care of poor patients. The funds, known as Disproportionate Share Hospital allotments, are scheduled to decrease as those low-income individuals presumably gain health coverage through a Medicaid expansion.

Without an expansion, Horsley said hospitals could be left on the hook for millions of dollars in uncompensated care. That, combined, with Medicare cuts, he

said could be fatal blows to some rural hospitals.

Alabama is expected to lose \$14 million in DSH dollars next fiscal year. The amount of future reductions hasn't been decided yet.

There is no deadline for the states to make a decision. But Dr. David Bronner points out by waiting, the state is turning down federal dollars.

“His big thing is economic development. Well, buddy, we can't do anything in about six counties in the state because they don't have a hospital. When we start closing the other ones, who in the world would bring their company to a county where the hospital is closing. No businessman in America with any brains would do that,” Bronner said.

30,700 New Jobs!

www.alaha.org
Medicaid Expansion Jobs Study

A study commissioned by the Alabama Hospital Association predicted that expanding Alabama's Medicaid program, under the Affordable Care Act, would create 30,700 new jobs over the next six years.

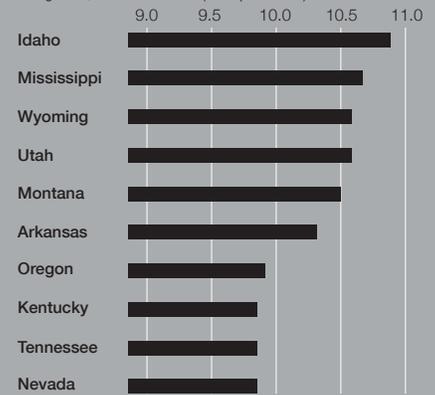
The report conducted by researchers at the University of Alabama's Center for Business and Economic Research estimated the number of new jobs could climb to 51,918 if all eligible individuals enrolled in

an expansion.

“The report concludes that ‘from an economic perspective, Alabama will significantly gain jobs and the associated income, grow its GDP, increase business activity, and generate much-needed tax revenues if it chooses to undertake Medicaid expansion under the ACA,’” Mike Horsley said in a statement. ■

Where not to get sick

Ten states where individuals' medical out-of-pocket spending is highest*, as % of income (75th percentile)



Source: Urban Institute

*Excluding the elderly



WANT TO HELP?

A FREE Car Tag

Tired of that worn-out dealer tag on the front of your car? Would you like to help the RSA and our Alabama Tourist Department advertise “Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail” on your front bumper? If so, call to request a tag at 334.517.7000, or 877.517.0020, or write:

Tag • P.O. Box 302150
Montgomery, AL 36130-2150

Projected State Costs for 2014-15

Projected **Retirement** Employer Cost
Retirement Systems of Alabama
(Amounts in millions)

Retirement System	Actual 2012-2013	Estimated 2013-2014	Estimated 2014-2015
Teachers'	\$627	\$748	\$748
Employees' Regular-State	141	170	192
Judicial	14	16	16
Total Retirement Cost	\$782	\$934	\$956

Projected **Insurance** Employer Cost
Retirement Systems of Alabama
(Amounts in millions)

Insurance	Actual 2012-2013	Estimated 2013-2014	Estimated 2014-2015
PEEHIP (Teachers)	\$876	\$884	\$985
SEHIP (State Employees)	305	314	314
Total Insurance Cost	\$1,181	\$1,198	\$1,299

Note: PEEHIP numbers include amounts from Universities for retiree costs and for 2 Universities participating in PEEHIP with both actives and retirees.

It Is Time to Respectfully Contact Gov. "Doc" Bentley About Medicaid.

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF ALABAMA
201 SOUTH UNION STREET
P.O. BOX 302150
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-2150

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PAID
MONTGOMERY, AL
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HOW JAPAN'S FORCES STACK UP

Personnel numbers are estimated. U.S. military personnel, aircraft and naval vessels are Pacific only. Defense spending in current U.S. dollars, 2012

	JAPAN	CHINA	S. KOREA	VIETNAM	PHILIPPINES	U.S.
Active military personnel	243,000	2,170,000	655,000	482,000	125,000	330,000
Defense spending	\$59.2 billion	\$166.1 billion	\$31.6 billion	\$3.3 billion	\$2.9 billion	\$682.4 billion
Aircraft	723	2,954	744	272	12	3,477
Naval equipment	502	1,936	568	109	80	14,906

More than the U.K.

First increase in 11 years

Japan may buy U.S. Osprey aircraft for transporting troops

Recently unveiled biggest warship since WWII

ENJOY YOUR WINTER! A SPECIAL DEAL FOR RSA MEMBERS

The Battle House, A Renaissance Hotel \$109

- November 3-7, 10-14, 17-30 • December 1-30
- January 1-2, 6-7, 12, 30-31

Riverview Plaza \$99

- November 3-7, 10-14, 17-29
- December 1-30 • January 1-2, 6-7, 12, 30-31

Marriott Grand \$109 plus a 15% resort fee

- November 10-11, 17-21 • December 1-5, 7, 15-22, 27-30
- January 1-2, 5-9, 12, 19-23, 26-30

Marriott Grand RSA Golf Package

\$179 plus a 15% resort fee – Promotional code – R2A

- November 10-11, 17-21 • December 1-5, 7, 15-22, 27-30
- January 1-2, 5-9, 12, 19-23, 26-30

Marriott Shoals \$99

- November 8-11, 24-30 • December 1, 8, 22-28
- January 1-5, 12, 19, 26

Renaissance Ross Bridge \$109

- November 1-5, 7, 10-30 • December 1-5, 7-13, 15-31
- January 1-2, 5-9, 12-16, 19-21, 26, 30

Opelika Marriott \$99

- November 3-14, 17-19, 22-28 • December 1-12, 15-31
- January 1-31

Prattville Marriott \$89

- November 1-2, 6-12, 15-17, 22-26, 29-30
- December 2-3, 6, 8-9, 11-31 • January 1-7, 9, 12-13, 16-21, 24-26

Renaissance Montgomery \$109

- November 1, 3-6, 9-10, 14, 16, 19-20, 22-26, 29-30
- December 3-4, 7-8, 13-15, 18-31
- January 1-6, 8-11, 15-16, 19-20, 25-27, 31

Renaissance Montgomery RSA Spa Package \$189

Promotional code – R2A

- November 5-6, 14, 19-20, 26 • December 3-4, 18-19
- January 8-9, 15-16

Specific room requests may require additional charge.

Rates available the 1st of the month and are not applicable to groups.

800-228-9290 Ask for RSA rate. Promotional Code: R2A on www.rsa-al.gov/hotels.htm

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