RESOLUTION OF THE
STATE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENDORSing IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERINATAL REGIONALIZATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Perinatal Regionalization is a strategy to reduce infant mortality by implementing a system

to ensure risk appropriate care for moms and infants to improve maternal and perinatal outcomes; and

WHEREAS, more than 11 percent of Alabama’s births occur before 37 weeks gestation; and

WHEREAS, more than 10 percent of Alabama’s births are low birth weight; and

WHEREAS, more than half of all infant deaths in Alabama are associated with being born before 37

weeks gestation; and

WHEREAS, for every 1,000 Alabama live births, approximately eight infants die before reaching their

first birthday; and

WHEREAS, highly specialized Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff and sophisticated equipment are

necessary to care for neonates requiring complex, intensive treatment; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 American Academy of Pediatrics Levels of Neonatal Care,

regionalized systems of perinatal care are recommended to ensure that each newborn infant is delivered and cared

for in a facility most appropriate for the infant’s health care needs and to facilitate the achievement of optimal

health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, strengthening a system of regionalized perinatal care ensures that hospitals and neonatal

intensive care units operate within appropriate, clearly defined level of care designations and ensures

collaboration among regional entities providing services to women, infants, and families; and

WHEREAS, a cohesive system of perinatal regionalization in Alabama better assures that pregnant

women and infants are more likely to deliver in an appropriate hospital setting and receive appropriate services to

meet their needs, thus, reducing morbidity and lowering infant mortality.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2012 American Academy of Pediatrics Neonatal Levels of

Care in conjunction with the Alabama Perinatal Regionalization System Guidelines is endorsed as best practice

and the Alabama Department of Public Health is to continue its efforts to strengthen the perinatal regionalization

system in the state; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alabama Hospital Association, the Alabama

Medicaid Agency, the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Alabama Section of the

American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians be

commended for their collaborative effort working in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health

to achieve this very important milestone in promoting and protecting the health and well-being of women and

infants in Alabama.

Adopted on this the 16th day of August, 2017.

John S. Meigs, Jr., M.D.
Chairman