



Strengthening Volunteer Driver Protections for Non-profit or Faith Based Organizations

- WHEREAS The Alabama Community Health Improvement Plan has identified transportation barriers as one of the leading social determinants of health impacting access to healthcare; and
- WHEREAS A 2015 survey of safety net healthcare providers in rural Alabama highlighted specific transportation-related barriers impacting rural patients; and
- WHEREAS Rural healthcare providers are concerned about regularly scheduled treatments, such as dialysis treatments, follow-up physician visits, or counseling and injections for mental health patients; and
- WHEREAS Missed appointments for preventative and follow-up care may lead to worsening health status and increased re-hospitalizations; and
- WHEREAS Scheduling and route limitations on available public transportation systems may exclude some rural patient populations; and
- WHEREAS Fees and fares for patients being transported by friends and family to healthcare appointments are often greater than what the patients can afford; and
- WHEREAS Assumption of liability limits the amount of physical assistance that transportation agencies can provide to individuals with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS Injury liability limits volunteer and faith-based organizations from providing non-emergency transportation to neighbors and community members; and
- WHEREAS Rural churches and other rural faith-based organizations own their own vehicles/vans and have a large base of volunteers therefore be it;

RESOLVED That the Alabama State Nurses Association calls on the Alabama State Legislature to pass a Volunteer Transportation to Healthcare Appointment bill that protects non-profit volunteers from liability when transporting patients to healthcare appointments

Submitted by Dr. Cyndy Henderson