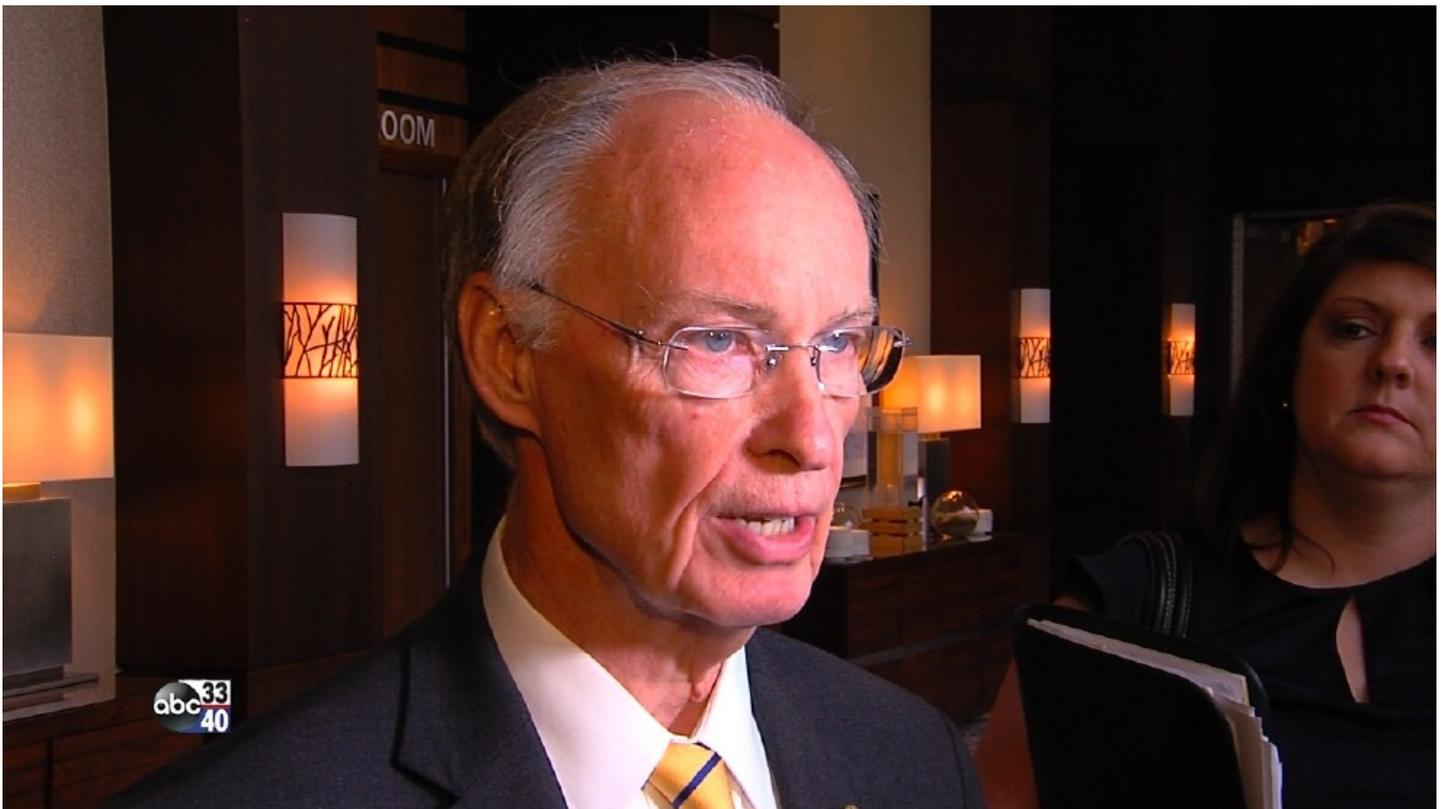


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Governor Bentley announces Summit on disability employment

BY EBONY HALL | FRIDAY, MAY 13TH 2016



Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley answered questions about impeachment, abortion and Medicaid during his stop in Birmingham Wednesday, May 11, 2016. (abc3340.com)

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Governor Robert Bentley, Alabama Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington and Alabama Mental Health Commissioner Jim Perdue announced a statewide employment summit for Alabamians with disabilities.

"I firmly believe having an opportunity for a quality job should be open for everyone, including Alabamians with a disability," Governor Bentley said. "This Summit on Disability Employment will bring together agencies, organizations, commissions and most importantly the consumers to address the disparaging gap in unemployment for those with disabilities. Disabled Alabamians are part of the dedicated Alabama workforce, and are a great partner to help companies be successful."

The summit is scheduled for October.

"The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services Vocational Rehabilitation program has placed more than 4,500 individuals with disabilities into jobs this past year," Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Cary F. Boswell said. "ADRS is also maintaining more than 1,700 partnerships with several Alabama businesses with an interest in disability and hiring. We are looking forward to partnering with other agencies to address this on-going issue."

The goal is to combine ideas from three different state departments (Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Department of Labor) with businesses committed to hiring people with disabilities.

"Employment for ALL Alabamians is a top priority," Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington said. "It is our mission to help our people find the best jobs they can, and we intend to fulfill this mission. There are so many opportunities in this state, for people of all abilities. We encourage Alabama's employers to assist us in this effort, and to open their doors to those who too often see them closed."

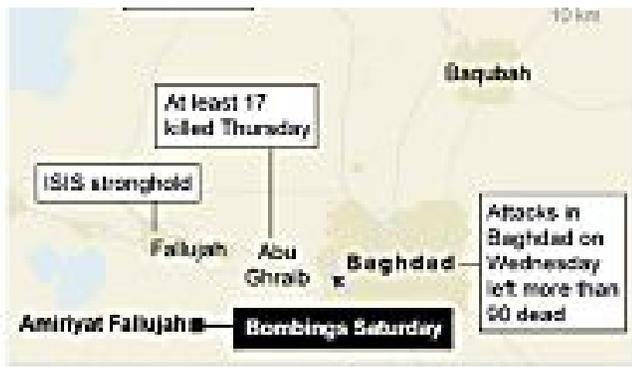
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