
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 803 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, BIZZARRO, MACKENZIE,
MCNEILL, CALTAGIRONE, J. HARRIS, BISHOP, NEILSON, MILLARD,
MCGEEHAN, PASHINSKI, LUCAS, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN, HARHART,
YOUNGBLOOD, ROSS, MATZIE, MURT, BAKER, DIGIROLAMO, HEFFLEY,
FRANKEL, MCCARTER, MOLCHANY, W. KELLER, ENGLISH, SCHREIBER,
THOMAS, KAVULICH, SAMUELSON, KORTZ, BROWNLEE, CLAY, D. COSTA,
FABRIZIO, KIM AND FLECK, APRIL 28, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 28, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 24 through 30, 2014, as "World
2 Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Vaccines are among the 20th century's most
4 successful and cost-effective public health tools available for
5 preventing disease and death; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Children's Fund
7 (UNICEF), immunization can be credited with saving approximately
8 nine million lives a year; and

9 WHEREAS, Worldwide, infectious diseases are the leading cause
10 of death of children and adolescents and one of the leading
11 causes in adults; and

12 WHEREAS, While significant advances have been made in
13 interventions to prevent and treat most of these diseases, those
14 interventions are often unavailable to the populations most in
15 need; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, 16
2 million deaths a year could be prevented if effective vaccines
3 were deployed against all potentially vaccine-preventable
4 diseases; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 6.8 million children under five years
6 of age die each year from infectious and parasitic disease
7 around the world, according to the World Health Organization;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Two million children, globally, die each year from
10 diseases that can be prevented by currently available vaccines;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, National immunization levels are at or near record
13 highs for most vaccines and most vaccine-preventable diseases
14 have been reduced by 99% or more; and

15 WHEREAS, Nevertheless, the United States is experiencing a
16 resurgence in previously eradicated diseases, such as measles;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, According to USA Today, officials declared measles
19 eradicated in the United States in 2000, and yet, this year the
20 disease is on track to infect three times as many people as in
21 2009; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health
23 and Human Services, 50 thousand to 70 thousand adults die
24 annually in the United States from vaccine-preventable disease;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Health, every year in
27 this Commonwealth, over 100 thousand babies are born, each of
28 whom deserves routine immunizations by two years of age to
29 protect against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases; and

30 WHEREAS, In some countries immunization rates are stagnating,

1 and even declining, due to the great disparity that exists
2 between industrialized and developing countries in the
3 availability of vaccines; and

4 WHEREAS, Immunization coverage is a centerpiece in the design
5 and assessment of international developmental efforts; and

6 WHEREAS, A group of international organizations declared the
7 week of April 24 through 30, 2014, as the World Immunization
8 Week, a global initiative that aims to promote the use of
9 vaccines to protect, or immunize, people of all ages against
10 disease; and

11 WHEREAS, The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, a
12 global network comprising governments, bilateral agencies,
13 technical agencies, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the
14 World Bank, the pharmaceutical industry, the Bill and Melinda
15 Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation have joined
16 together to improve access to sustainable immunization services
17 and expand the use of all existing safe and cost-effective
18 vaccines; and

19 WHEREAS, These organizations are accelerating research and
20 development efforts for vaccines worldwide, particularly
21 vaccines against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired
22 immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), malaria and tuberculosis; and

23 WHEREAS, Increased routine vaccination for measles, bacterial
24 meningitis, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, pertussis, yellow fever
25 and rotavirus greatly improved with better coordination and
26 additional outside founding from groups like the Global Alliance
27 for Vaccines and Immunization; and

28 WHEREAS, Remarkable progress has been made in immunization in
29 several countries to ensure that every eligible individual is
30 immunized with all appropriate vaccines, irrespective of

1 geographical location, age, gender, disability, educational
2 level, socioeconomic level, ethnic group or work condition; and
3 WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization,
4 immunization programs currently save about three million lives
5 per year worldwide and prevent 750 thousand cases of blindness,
6 paralysis and mental disability; and

7 WHEREAS, Maintaining high immunization rates protects the
8 entire community by interrupting transmission of disease-causing
9 viruses and bacteria; and

10 WHEREAS, A week profiling the importance of immunization in
11 this Commonwealth and highlighting the global immunization
12 campaign, would increase public awareness that many diseases are
13 effectively and safely prevented or controlled by immunization,
14 thereby reducing the burden of illness in our communities;
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
17 week of April 24 through 30, 2014, as "World Immunization Week"
18 in Pennsylvania and urge the people of this Commonwealth to
19 support the efforts, programs, services and organizations that
20 work across the globe to enhance public awareness of the
21 importance of immunization.