
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 719 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, MILLARD, KOTIK, COHEN, DUSH, SONNEY,
YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, READSHAW, THOMAS, CORBIN, V. BROWN,
DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, BOBACK, WARD, SAMUELSON, MAJOR,
HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, ROSS, SCHLOSSBERG,
BULLOCK, MAHONEY, MARSICO, McNEILL, ROEBUCK, NEILSON, WATSON,
HEFFLEY, BRADFORD AND GINGRICH, MARCH 10, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 16 through 23, 2016, as "National
2 Infant Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Since 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention (CDC), state and local health departments, national
5 immunization partners, health care professionals and public
6 officials have observed "National Infant Immunization Week" to
7 highlight the importance of vaccinations and call attention to
8 achievements in immunizations; and

9 WHEREAS, Immunizations are among the most successful and
10 cost-effective public health interventions for preventing
11 disease and death in our communities; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, routine childhood
13 immunizations in one birth cohort prevents approximately 20
14 million cases of infectious disease and approximately 42,000
15 deaths, saving \$13.5 billion in direct costs; and

1 WHEREAS, Immunizations help reduce the risk of infection and
2 life-threatening diseases by working with the body's natural
3 defenses to safely develop immunity to diseases; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2014 the CDC reported that, among children born
5 between 1994 and 2013, vaccinations are expected to prevent an
6 estimated 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and
7 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite achievements in immunization, the United
9 States Department of Health and Human Services reports that
10 approximately 300 children die annually from vaccine-preventable
11 diseases; and

12 WHEREAS, Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles,
13 continue to appear in the United States and internationally,
14 making continued vaccination necessary to protect our
15 communities and public health; and

16 WHEREAS, Infants are particularly susceptible to infectious
17 diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, Vaccinations are designed to provide immunity early
19 in life before exposure to life-threatening diseases; and

20 WHEREAS, An estimated 12,000 babies are born in the United
21 States each day, and they need to be immunized before two years
22 of age to protect against 14 serious diseases, including, but
23 not limited to, diphtheria, influenza, measles, mumps, pertussis
24 (whooping cough), polio, rubella and varicella (chickenpox); and

25 WHEREAS, The immunization of infants and children, based on
26 the childhood immunization schedule recommended by the CDC, is
27 essential in providing the best protection to children;
28 therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
30 week of April 16 through 23, 2016, as "National Infant

1 Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
3 parents, caregivers and health care professionals in this
4 Commonwealth to participate in educational and media events to
5 increase the awareness of the importance of immunizing children.