

Senate Resolution 281

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Mullis of the 53rd, Harper of the 7th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Kirk of the 13th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing August, 2017, as National Immunization Awareness Month and supporting
2 adult immunizations; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, vaccines have been cited as one of the ten great public health achievements; and

4 WHEREAS, significant strides have been made to increase vaccine uptake rates and reduce
5 vaccine preventable diseases in the United States among children; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the
7 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend immunization for adults
8 who are over 18 years of age, against 13 different vaccine-preventable diseases, including:
9 influenza, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella (chickenpox), zoster
10 (shingles), measles, mumps, rubella, pneumococcal disease (pneumonia), meningococcal
11 disease (meningitis), hepatitis A, and hepatitis B; and

12 WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of experts about the effectiveness and safety of
13 adult vaccines, immunization rates remain low and far beneath national targets; and

14 WHEREAS, although immunization rates are low among all adults, substantial racial and
15 ethnic disparities in immunization exist with immunization rates among African Americans
16 and Hispanics substantially below that of their white counterparts. For example, in the
17 2010-2011 influenza season, 44 percent of Whites were vaccinated, whereas only 40 percent
18 of Hispanics and 39 percent of Blacks were; and

19 WHEREAS, between 40,000 and 50,000 adults die annually from vaccine-preventable
20 diseases in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, the CDC has estimated the direct healthcare burden of adult
22 vaccine-preventable diseases at \$10 billion annually; and

23 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one of the six causes of excess
24 costs in the United States healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and

25 WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended vaccinations
26 because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive
27 healthcare.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize August, 2017, as National Immunization Awareness Month and urge all people to
30 speak with their healthcare providers to ensure that their vaccinations are up-to-date and urge
31 all providers and policy-makers to work to remove barriers to vaccination and to protect
32 adults from vaccine-preventable diseases.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
35 press.