

House Resolution 1476

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45th, Smith of the 70th, Au of the 50th, and Reese of the 140th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, vaccination is proven to be a safe, invaluable tool to proactively safeguard
3 public health and prevent the devastating effects of vaccine-preventable diseases; and
- 4 WHEREAS, vaccination has averted over 154 million deaths globally since 1974, of which
5 146 million were among children younger than 5 years of age; and
- 6 WHEREAS, vaccination reduces morbidity and mortality by eradicating vaccine-
7 preventable diseases, such as smallpox, and reduces the incidence of infections like
8 meningitis, measles, polio, and rubella; and
- 9 WHEREAS, timely meningococcal vaccination in children and young adults helps protect
10 against the debilitating effects of meningococcal disease, including death, and has led to a
11 significant decrease in incidence; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 2025, declining measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination rates
13 contributed to 49 measles outbreaks in the United States, with over 2,200 confirmed cases,
14 the highest in over three decades; and

15 WHEREAS, ongoing measles outbreaks entering 2026 risk the loss of measles elimination
16 status in the United States, which has been in place since 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, an analysis of costs associated with invasive meningococcal disease outbreaks
18 found that the average cost per outbreak containment strategy was almost \$440,000,
19 \$299,641 and \$579,851 for small and large containment strategies, respectively; and

20 WHEREAS, among the approximately 117 million children born during 1994-2023 in the
21 United States, vaccination averted 508 million lifetime cases of illness, 32 million
22 hospitalizations, and 1.1 million deaths, resulting in estimated savings of \$540 billion in
23 direct medical costs and \$2.7 trillion in societal costs; and

24 WHEREAS, public health analyses suggest that skipping or delaying the hepatitis B birth
25 dose could result in thousands of preventable hepatitis B infections and hundreds of millions
26 in avoidable healthcare costs in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, vaccination for four common diseases in older adults, including shingles, is
28 estimated to prevent 64 million cases and \$185 billion in treatment costs over the next 30
29 years in the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, while vaccinating children provides substantial health and economic benefit,
31 vaccinating adults is also important, many childhood vaccines provide life-long protection,
32 however, immunity can decrease over a person's lifetime, and some vaccine-preventable
33 diseases can be more severe in adults; and

34 WHEREAS, there continues to be disease burden in adults, especially in those with
35 comorbidities, advanced age, or immunocompromising conditions, warranting timely
36 vaccination – especially against viruses that change frequently, such as influenza; and

37 WHEREAS, for example, vaccination against shingles for high-risk adults aged 19 and older,
38 as well as all adults aged 50 and older, has proven highly effective in preventing the infection
39 and its transmission, offering protection for several years after immunization; and

40 WHEREAS, for example, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination in older adults is an
41 effective preventive measure that reduces the likelihood of hospitalization and critical illness
42 due to RSV infection; and

43 WHEREAS, while rare side effects may occur in some individuals, the federal Food and
44 Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
45 maintain a robust, transparent vaccine safety reporting system, including the Vaccine
46 Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS); and

47 WHEREAS, nonetheless, vaccines remain a safe and effective tool critical to safeguarding
48 public health and protecting the citizens of our great state.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body recognize August as National Immunization Awareness Month and
51 promote vaccination as a highly effective and safe public health measure while continuing
52 to be transparent about potential side effects associated with some vaccines.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
54 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
55 public and the press.