

House Resolution 531

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Silcox of the 53rd, Dempsey of the 13th, Newton of the 127th, and Bennett of the 94th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the inclusion of new RSV immunization technologies, including vaccines and
2 monoclonal antibodies, within the federal VFC program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, RSV is a highly transmissible seasonal virus that can have severe and
4 unpredictable outcomes for infants, including hospitalization; and

5 WHEREAS, nearly all children will be infected with RSV by age two, and most infants
6 requiring hospitalization were previously healthy and born at term; and

7 WHEREAS, RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization among infants in the United States;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small
10 airways in the lung) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs) in children younger than one
11 year of age in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, the current RSV season has resulted in significant morbidity and increased
13 mortality; and

14 WHEREAS, in the United States, RSV infections typically occur during late fall, winter, and
15 early spring, meaning urgent preparation is needed; and

16 WHEREAS, monoclonal antibodies for RSV show promise for preventative protection
17 against RSV; and

18 WHEREAS, RSV disproportionately affects infants with Medicaid coverage, Native
19 Americans, and Alaskan Natives; and

20 WHEREAS, the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program is a federally funded program that
21 provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of
22 inability to pay; and

23 WHEREAS, VFC coverage is critical to ensure equity and access for all infants in order to
24 have the greatest impact on disease burden.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body commend the inclusion of new RSV immunization technologies,
27 including vaccines and monoclonal antibodies, within the federal VFC program.

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