
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 187 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, ROZZI, READSHAW, KINSEY, DiGIROLAMO,
KIRKLAND, SIMS, FREEMAN, V. BROWN, DONATUCCI, McNEILL,
DRISCOLL, STURLA, CORBIN, BISHOP, COHEN, THOMAS, O'BRIEN,
FABRIZIO, SCHLOSSBERG, WHEELAND, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, ROSS
AND WATSON, MARCH 24, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 18 through 25, 2015, as "National
2 Infant Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Immunizations help reduce the spread of life-
4 threatening diseases and prevent dangerous complications by
5 working with the body's natural defenses to develop immunity to
6 diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, Immunizations are among the most successful and
8 cost-effective public health tools available for preventing
9 disease and death in our communities; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States has the safest, most effective
11 vaccination supply in its history; and

12 WHEREAS, The approximately 12,000 babies born daily in the
13 United States need to be immunized before two years of age to
14 protect against 14 serious diseases and complications, including
15 diphtheria, influenza, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping
16 cough), polio, rubella and varicella (chickenpox); and

1 WHEREAS, Infants are particularly susceptible to infectious
2 diseases and immunizations are designed to provide immunity
3 early in life, before exposure to life-threatening diseases; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health
5 and Human Services, approximately 300 children die annually from
6 vaccine-preventable diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention (CDC), routine childhood immunizations prevent
9 approximately 20 million cases of infectious disease and
10 approximately 42,000 deaths, saving \$13.5 billion in direct
11 costs; and

12 WHEREAS, Among children born between 1994 and 2013,
13 immunization will prevent an estimated 322 million illnesses, 21
14 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths over the course of
15 their lifetime; and

16 WHEREAS, Since 1994, the CDC, national immunization partners,
17 health care professionals, state and local health departments
18 and community leaders from across the United States have joined
19 together to observe "National Infant Immunization Week" each
20 year and promote the benefits of immunizing children two years
21 of age or younger; and

22 WHEREAS, "National Infant Immunization Week," celebrated
23 during World Immunization Week, highlights the importance and
24 benefits of vaccinations for infants and children and brings
25 attention to the achievements of immunization programs in
26 promoting healthy communities; and

27 WHEREAS, The CDC's Vaccines for Children Program provides
28 vaccinations at no cost to children who might not otherwise be
29 vaccinated due to inability to pay and has contributed to a
30 substantial increase in childhood immunization coverage levels;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Due to widespread immunization, especially childhood
3 immunization, the United States is experiencing very low rates
4 of vaccine-preventable diseases; and

5 WHEREAS, Nevertheless, previously eradicated diseases, such
6 as measles, have been reappearing in communities across the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 600 cases of measles were reported in
9 2014, which is the greatest number of cases since eradication in
10 2000, mainly due to groups of unvaccinated individuals and
11 travelers with measles bringing the disease into the country,
12 putting unvaccinated children and adults at risk; and

13 WHEREAS, Vaccine-preventable diseases continue to appear in
14 the United States and internationally which is why continued
15 vaccination is necessary to protect our communities and public
16 health; and

17 WHEREAS, The immunization of infants and children based on
18 the childhood immunization schedule recommended by the CDC is
19 essential in providing the best protection early in life when
20 children are vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases;
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
23 week of April 18 through 25, 2015, as "National Infant
24 Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
26 parents, caregivers and health care professionals in this
27 Commonwealth to participate in educational and media events to
28 increase the awareness of the importance of immunizing children
29 before their second birthday.