

By: Morales of Harris

H.C.R. No. 94

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, May 8 marks the anniversary of the date in 1980 when
2 the world was declared free of the smallpox disease, a monumental
3 achievement in public health; this occasion serves as a fitting
4 opportunity to highlight the lifesaving importance of immunization
5 and to encourage Texans to learn more about the visionary health
6 professionals who have contributed to the development of vaccines;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The earliest known records of immunization date back
9 to the 15th century, and the practice was revolutionized by English
10 physician Edward Jenner in 1796, when he successfully inoculated a
11 child against smallpox using matter from a cowpox sore; later, the
12 term "vaccine" was coined from the Latin word for cow, *vacca*; and

13 WHEREAS, The first laboratory-produced vaccine was created
14 by Louis Pasteur in 1872; following the outbreak of the Spanish Flu
15 pandemic in 1918, the development of an influenza vaccine became a
16 priority for the U.S. military; the first flu shot was approved for
17 military use in 1945, and civilians were allowed to obtain the
18 vaccine soon after; another major breakthrough in immunization
19 research took place during the 1950s, when Jonas Salk developed the
20 first effective vaccine against polio, a devastating viral disease
21 that primarily affects young children; by 1960, a live-attenuated
22 version of the polio vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1967, the World Health Organization launched the
24 Intensified Smallpox Eradication Programme, which aimed to

1 eliminate smallpox in more than 30 countries; the initiative
2 received unprecedented global support despite the ongoing Cold War,
3 leading to the eradication of the disease by 1980; over the decades,
4 immunization has continued to advance through efforts such as the
5 Essential Programme on Immunization, the Global Polio Eradication
6 Initiative, and the Meningitis Vaccine Project, as well as through
7 the dedicated work of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and other
8 organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the past five decades, global immunization
10 efforts have saved an estimated 154 million lives, including those
11 of more than 100 million infants; immunization programs have served
12 as the bedrock of primary health services in communities and
13 countries around the world, offering vaccinations and other vital
14 services, including nutritional support, maternal tetanus
15 prevention, and illness screenings; and

16 WHEREAS, Vaccines are crucial to improving public health and
17 combatting preventable diseases, and the remarkable work of vaccine
18 developers, past and present, is indeed deserving of special
19 recognition; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby designate May 8 as Vaccination Day; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
23 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
24 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
25 passed by the legislature.