

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 16

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The week of April 25 through May 1, 2004, is being  
2 observed as National Infant Immunization Week to help ensure that  
3 children under the age of two receive all their vaccinations; and

4 WHEREAS, Vaccines are among the most successful and  
5 cost-effective public health tools available for preventing  
6 illness and death; to be protected from serious childhood diseases,  
7 children need 16 to 20 doses of different vaccines, which can be  
8 administered over several visits to a doctor before their second  
9 birthday; diseases targeted by these vaccines include measles,  
10 mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough; and

11 WHEREAS, Since its establishment as a project of the  
12 Community Council in 1995, the Immunize Kids! Dallas Area  
13 Partnership has coordinated the observance of National Infant  
14 Immunization Week in Dallas County; this admirable program seeks to  
15 raise the awareness of families about the importance of securing  
16 immunizations for their children on a timely basis and helps  
17 families to overcome barriers to following through on an  
18 immunization schedule; as part of its campaign, Immunize Kids!  
19 conducts outreach to 5,000 families through neighborhood events,  
20 distributes more than 100,000 immunization brochures in eight  
21 languages, and provides an immunization workshop for health care  
22 professionals; and

23 WHEREAS, Immunize Kids! is supported by an extensive,  
24 community-wide network of individuals and institutions; the many

1 partners involved in this effort include the Dallas County  
2 Department of Health and Human Services, the cities of Dallas,  
3 Garland, and Irving, the Dallas County Medical Society, Children's  
4 Medical Center Dallas, and Parkland Health and Hospital System; and

5 WHEREAS, Figures recently released by the Centers for Disease  
6 Control and Prevention show that Dallas County's immunization rate  
7 for children age 19 months through 35 months rose from 68.9 percent  
8 in 2001 to 77.3 percent in 2002; high rates of immunization coverage  
9 nationally have translated into record or near-record low levels of  
10 vaccine-preventable diseases; morbidity for most such diseases has  
11 been reduced by 99 percent or more since the vaccines were  
12 introduced; and

13 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding these achievements, much work  
14 remains to be done: more than one million children in the United  
15 States have not been adequately immunized, and 11,000 more children  
16 are born each day; and

17 WHEREAS, Young children are especially vulnerable to  
18 infectious diseases, but they can now be protected by vaccinations  
19 from more diseases than ever before; full vaccination coverage also  
20 promotes the health of the entire community, and the investment in  
21 this preventive approach is more than matched by dramatic savings  
22 in health care costs; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
24 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby recognize April 25 through  
25 May 1, 2004, as National Infant Immunization Week in Texas, that it  
26 commend all those involved with the Immunize Kids! Dallas Area  
27 Partnership for their great contribution to the health of young

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1 children and the community at large, and that it encourage all those  
2 responsible for the care of infants and toddlers to guard the health  
3 of their children through full and timely vaccination coverage.