

By: Shapleigh

S.C.R. No. 14

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases
2 has been one of the major public health achievements of the last
3 century, but vigilance against medical contagion remains a
4 necessity and requires the nation to address problems that recently
5 have constricted rates of childhood inoculation; and

6 WHEREAS, During the first half of 2001, national shortages
7 were evident among vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis,
8 rubella, mumps, and varicella, from among the diseases for which
9 immunization is required of Texas schoolchildren by Section 38.001,
10 Education Code, or by rules of the Texas Department of Health; and

11 WHEREAS, Supply problems likewise existed for vaccines for
12 measles and pneumococcal infection, and the national situation,
13 while it has since improved, continues to be subject to the threats
14 of localized shortages or delays in vaccine delivery to health
15 providers; and

16 WHEREAS, Legal obstacles also have hindered childhood
17 vaccination efforts; the federal Vaccines for Children program
18 covers young people up to 18 years old who are eligible for Medicaid
19 or meet other specified criteria, but in Texas the plan does not
20 cover enrollees in the state's Children's Health Insurance Program
21 because of the choice of a separate state health plan rather than a
22 Medicaid expansion; and

23 WHEREAS, Another inconsistency concerns the federal Employee
24 Retirement Income Security Act because the benefit provisions of

1 that act fail to give coverage to the entire list of vaccines as
2 recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
3 that counsels the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and
4 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

5 WHEREAS, Vaccination deficiencies have impacts at the state
6 and local levels, yet much of the requisite solution to the problem
7 resides within the purview of our elected officials in Washington;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to take
11 steps to address the vaccine supply shortage with respect to
12 childhood immunization schedules; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the congress pass legislation to require
14 health plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to
15 cover all recommended vaccines of the Advisory Committee on
16 Immunization Practices; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the congress eliminate the inconsistency that
18 allows Medicaid children to be eligible for the Vaccines for
19 Children program but denies eligibility in some cases to enrollees
20 in the state's Children's Health Insurance Program; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
23 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
24 the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
25 representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
26 members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request
27 that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional

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1 Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of
2 America.

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