

1-1 By: Shapleigh S.C.R. No. 14  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 17, 2003; February 19, 2003,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human  
1-4 Services; May 2, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 2, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases  
1-8 has been one of the major public health achievements of the last  
1-9 century, but vigilance against medical contagion remains a  
1-10 necessity and requires the nation to address problems that recently  
1-11 have constricted rates of childhood inoculation; and

1-12 WHEREAS, During the first half of 2001, national shortages  
1-13 were evident among vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis,  
1-14 rubella, mumps, and varicella, from among the diseases for which  
1-15 immunization is required of Texas schoolchildren by Section 38.001,  
1-16 Education Code, or by rules of the Texas Department of Health; and

1-17 WHEREAS, Supply problems likewise existed for vaccines for  
1-18 measles and pneumococcal infection, and the national situation,  
1-19 while it has since improved, continues to be subject to the threats  
1-20 of localized shortages or delays in vaccine delivery to health  
1-21 providers; and

1-22 WHEREAS, Legal obstacles also have hindered childhood  
1-23 vaccination efforts; the federal Vaccines for Children program  
1-24 covers young people up to 18 years old who are eligible for Medicaid  
1-25 or meet other specified criteria, but in Texas the plan does not  
1-26 cover enrollees in the state's Children's Health Insurance Program  
1-27 because of the choice of a separate state health plan rather than a  
1-28 Medicaid expansion; and

1-29 WHEREAS, Another inconsistency concerns the federal Employee  
1-30 Retirement Income Security Act because the benefit provisions of  
1-31 that Act fail to give coverage to the entire list of vaccines as  
1-32 recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
1-33 that counsels the United States Department of Health and Human  
1-34 Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

1-35 WHEREAS, Vaccination deficiencies have impacts at the state  
1-36 and local levels, yet much of the requisite solution to the problem  
1-37 resides within the purview of our elected officials in Washington;  
1-38 now, therefore, be it

1-39 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-40 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to take  
1-41 steps to address the vaccine supply shortage with respect to  
1-42 childhood immunization schedules; and, be it further

1-43 RESOLVED, That the congress pass legislation to require  
1-44 health plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to  
1-45 cover all recommended vaccines of the Advisory Committee on  
1-46 Immunization Practices; and, be it further

1-47 RESOLVED, That the congress eliminate the inconsistency that  
1-48 allows Medicaid children to be eligible for the Vaccines for  
1-49 Children program but denies eligibility in some cases to enrollees  
1-50 in the state's Children's Health Insurance Program; and, be it  
1-51 further

1-52 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
1-53 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
1-54 the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
1-55 representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
1-56 members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request  
1-57 that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional  
1-58 Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of  
1-59 America.

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