

By: Lucio III

H.R. No. 369

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is committed to
2 supporting measures that safeguard the health of our state's
3 residents, and in that spirit, the members of this chamber are
4 promoting greater awareness of the Tdap vaccine; and

5 WHEREAS, Licensed in 2005, Tdap is the only combination
6 vaccine designed to protect adolescents and adults, specifically,
7 against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis, commonly known as
8 whooping cough; and

9 WHEREAS, While cases of tetanus and diphtheria are rare today
10 in the United States, the incidence of pertussis has been
11 increasing since 1976, when vaccination for the disease brought the
12 number of cases down to just over a thousand; according to the
13 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2009 Texas had 3,358
14 reported cases, the highest number in the country; nationwide, 2010
15 was expected to see the most cases in nearly half a century; and

16 WHEREAS, Because the immunity conferred by vaccination for
17 pertussis fades over time, it is important that adults receive the
18 Tdap booster and continue to be revaccinated at 10-year intervals,
19 unless their personal medical histories indicate otherwise;
20 physicians attribute the increase in pertussis, in large measure,
21 to the fact that many adults and adolescents have not received the
22 Tdap vaccine; and

23 WHEREAS, Pertussis typically lasts for about six weeks and,
24 in addition to violent coughing, can lead to pneumonia and swelling

1 of the brain; before the advent of widespread immunization in the
2 U.S., pertussis caused nearly 8,000 fatalities a year and was a
3 significant cause of childhood death; it remains a serious threat
4 to infants, for they have not yet completed the full cycle of
5 childhood vaccinations; and

6 WHEREAS, Many infants who develop pertussis are infected by
7 adults and adolescents who are carrying the disease but do not know
8 it because their symptoms are typically less acute; pertussis is
9 highly contagious, and those who have contracted the illness remain
10 infectious for about 21 days; and

11 WHEREAS, Although pertussis is generally less severe in
12 adults, they are frequently forced to miss work for repeated doctor
13 visits and may also develop complications and require
14 hospitalization; and

15 WHEREAS, Pertussis is a dangerous illness, but it is
16 preventable if children are inoculated and if adolescents and
17 adults keep current with Tdap booster immunizations; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby encourage greater public awareness of the risks
21 associated with pertussis and of the importance of adolescents and
22 adults receiving Tdap vaccinations on a regular schedule.