88R17103 BK-D

By:  Howard H.R. No. 577

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a major cause of seasonal respiratory infections that, though mild for most individuals, can disproportionately affect older adults and young children; and

WHEREAS, This highly contagious virus is so common that most children have been infected with it by the age of two; it spreads though the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes around others and through contact with contaminated objects and surfaces, and it is most often seen from November through late March in Texas; and

WHEREAS, For many, the symptoms of RSV mimic those of the common cold, but severe cases can occur when the infection spreads to the lower respiratory tract; in infants, RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis, or inflammation of the small airway passages in the lungs, and pneumonia; the virus also poses an elevated risk to older adults, people with heart and lung disease, and immunocompromised people; and

WHEREAS, Every year, RSV leads to approximately 2.1 million outpatient visits and to as many as 80,000 hospitalizations among children younger than five years old in the U.S. and as many as 160,000 hospitalizations among adults 65 years and older; more than 70 percent of infants hospitalized for RSV are full-term, otherwise healthy newborns; less than two percent of infants are eligible for RSV preventative medication, and there is currently no approved treatment for the illness, only supportive care; and

WHEREAS, The ability to identify and act upon the signs and symptoms of severe RSV infection can potentially save lives, and the observance of RSV Awareness Day serves to further educate the public about this highly pervasive, yet often overlooked illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 16, 2023, as RSV Awareness Day and encourage all Texans to learn more ways they can stop the spread of RSV.