

By: Howard

H.R. No. 577

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Every year, RSV leads to approximately 2.1 million
19 outpatient visits and to as many as 80,000 hospitalizations among
20 children younger than five years old in the U.S. and as many as
21 160,000 hospitalizations among adults 65 years and older; more than
22 70 percent of infants hospitalized for RSV are full-term, otherwise
23 healthy newborns; less than two percent of infants are eligible for
24 RSV preventative medication, and there is currently no approved

1 treatment for the illness, only supportive care; and

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

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