

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 801

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The observance of Vaccine Awareness and Advocacy Day
2 at the State Capitol on March 29, 2023, provides an opportunity to
3 highlight vaccination as a crucial public health strategy; and

4 WHEREAS, Vaccines exist at the intersection of personal and
5 public health; a vaccinated individual receives beneficial
6 protection for themselves and also imparts protection to their
7 local community by preventing the spread of infection to others;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In the 20th century alone, smallpox killed
10 approximately 300 million people worldwide; the advent of the
11 smallpox vaccine resulted in global eradication by 1980; and

12 WHEREAS, Polio caused more than 16,000 cases of paralysis in
13 the United States every year before the development of the polio
14 vaccine in 1955; this horrible disease is now considered virtually
15 nonexistent in the Americas; vaccines have also eradicated rubella
16 and significantly reduced infection rates for measles, mumps,
17 diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, and chicken pox; and

18 WHEREAS, High vaccination rates in the United States have not
19 only saved lives but kept the country largely free of many diseases
20 that cause severe, enduring impacts to survivors in other parts of
21 the world; vaccine access and equity are vital to ensure lasting
22 herd immunity for Americans and avoid outbreaks of preventable
23 diseases; and

24 WHEREAS, When enough people in a community become immune to

1 an infectious disease, herd immunity slows the spread of that
2 illness and protects those who do not have immunity, including
3 newborn babies, the elderly, people undergoing chemotherapy, and
4 others with weakened immune systems; while contributing to the
5 well-being of individuals, herd immunity also keeps disease
6 outbreaks from overwhelming health care systems; and

7 WHEREAS, The percentage of the population necessary to confer
8 herd immunity varies among diseases; for instance, although
9 approximately 80 percent of the population must be immune to
10 prevent the spread of polio, measles is so highly communicable that
11 it requires approximately 95 percent immunity to stop it from
12 sweeping through a community; and

13 WHEREAS, Vaccines have been an enormous boon to humankind,
14 reducing death and suffering for hundreds of millions of people
15 around the world, but in order to ensure continued protection, we
16 must remain vigilant about improving access among all members of
17 society; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize March 29, 2023, as Vaccine Awareness
20 and Advocacy Day at the State Capitol.