

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015

SR 16

4  
5 By: Senator Elliott

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO RECOGNIZE BETTY FLANAGAN BUMPERS FOR HER WORK TO  
9 PROMOTE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION; AND TO ENCOURAGE  
10 ARKANSAS FAMILIES TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE  
11 IMPORTANCE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION.  
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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO RECOGNIZE BETTY FLANAGAN BUMPERS FOR  
16 HER WORK TO PROMOTE CHILDHOOD  
17 IMMUNIZATION; AND TO ENCOURAGE ARKANSAS  
18 FAMILIES TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE  
19 IMPORTANCE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION.  
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22 WHEREAS, Betty Bumpers has dedicated her life to addressing issues  
23 affecting children's health; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bumpers is a former elementary school teacher and the  
26 wife of former Arkansas Governor and United States Senator Dale Bumpers; and  
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28 WHEREAS, in 1971, while her husband was governor, Mrs. Bumpers began to  
29 work on important issues of health and education affecting Arkansas families  
30 and children; and  
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32 WHEREAS, when Mrs. Bumpers became the First Lady, Arkansas had one of  
33 the lowest immunization rates in the nation; and  
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35 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bumpers spearheaded the Every Child by '74 campaign of  
36 volunteers, which immunized over 350,000 Arkansas children in one day,



1 achieving one of the highest immunization rates in the country; and

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3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bumpers moved to Washington D.C. in 1974 after her  
4 husband's election to the Senate where she promoted this program as a  
5 national model along with help from the White House, Centers for Disease  
6 Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services, known  
7 then as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and

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9 WHEREAS, in 1991, after a measles epidemic killed over 200 children,  
10 Mrs. Bumpers and former First Lady Rosalyn Carter along with the Carter  
11 Center launched the national Every Child by Two campaign, with the goal of  
12 assuring immunizations for all children by the age of 2, which contributed to  
13 an immunization rate of 90% for children under 2; and

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15 WHEREAS, in 1999, President Bill Clinton along with Congress created at  
16 the National Institutes of Medicine the Betty and Dale Bumpers Vaccine  
17 Research Center; and

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19 WHEREAS, in 2001, Mrs. Bumpers testified before the United States  
20 Senate Health, Labor and Pensions Committee about the need for a systematic  
21 delivery of vaccines and supported legislation to require health plans to  
22 cover childhood immunizations; and

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24 WHEREAS, in light of serious health events currently affecting  
25 children's health in our country and the increasing number of children who  
26 do not receive essential vaccinations, the Senate encourages Arkansas  
27 families to consult with healthcare professionals to discuss the benefits of  
28 childhood immunizations and to give serious consideration to the value of  
29 childhood immunizations,

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31 NOW THEREFORE,

32 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE  
33 OF ARKANSAS:

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35 THAT the Senate of the Ninetieth General Assembly recognizes Betty  
36 Flanagan Bumpers for her tireless efforts to promote childhood immunization

1 and encourages Arkansas families to consider seriously the importance of  
2 childhood immunization.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption, a copy of this  
resolution be presented to Mrs. Bumpers by the Secretary of the Senate.