

House Resolution 396

By: Representatives Price of the 48th, Jones of the 47th, Dempsey of the 13th, Hawkins of the 27th, Newton of the 123rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing August, 2017, as National Immunization Awareness Month and supporting
2 adult immunizations; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, vaccines have been cited as one of the ten great public health achievements; and

4 WHEREAS, significant strides have been made to increase vaccine uptake rates and reduce
5 vaccine preventable diseases in the United States among children; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the
7 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend immunization for adults
8 who are over 18 years of age, against 13 different vaccine-preventable diseases, including:
9 influenza, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella (chickenpox), zoster
10 (shingles), measles, mumps, rubella, pneumococcal disease (pneumonia), meningococcal
11 disease (meningitis), hepatitis A, and hepatitis B; and

12 WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of experts about the effectiveness and safety of
13 adult vaccines, immunization rates remain low and far beneath national targets; and

14 WHEREAS, although immunization rates are low among all adults, substantial racial and
15 ethnic disparities in immunization exist with immunization rates among African Americans
16 and Hispanics substantially below that of their white counterparts. For example, in the
17 2010-2011 influenza season 44 percent of Whites were vaccinated, whereas only 40 percent
18 of Hispanics and 39 percent of Blacks were; and

19 WHEREAS, between 40,000 and 50,000 adults die annually from vaccine-preventable
20 diseases in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, the CDC has estimated the direct healthcare burden of adult
22 vaccine-preventable diseases at \$10 billion annually; and

23 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one of the six causes of excess
24 costs in the United States healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and

25 WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended vaccinations
26 because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive
27 healthcare.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize August, 2017, as National Immunization Awareness
30 Month and urge all people to speak with their healthcare providers to ensure that their
31 vaccinations are up-to-date and urge all providers and policy-makers to work to remove
32 barriers to vaccination and to protect adults from vaccine-preventable diseases.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
35 public and the press.