

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 53

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to express support for adult immunizations.

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend immunization for adults who are over eighteen years of age against fourteen different vaccine-preventable diseases including: influenza, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella (chicken pox), human papillomavirus (HPV), zoster (shingles), measles, mumps, rubella, pneumococcal disease (pneumonia), meningococcal disease (meningitis), hepatitis A, and hepatitis B; and

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

WHEREAS, although immunization rates are low among all adults, substantial racial and ethnic disparities in immunization exist with immunization rates among African Americans and Hispanics substantially below their white counterparts. For example, in the 2010-2011 influenza season, forty-four percent of whites were vaccinated, whereas only forty percent of Hispanics and thirty-nine percent of African Americans received vaccinations; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one of the six causes of excess costs in the U.S. healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and

WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended vaccinations because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventative healthcare; and

WHEREAS, as the month of August is observed as National Immunization Awareness Month, Tennesseans should be encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to ensure that their vaccinations are up to date; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby support adult immunizations and applaud the efforts of providers and policy-makers to remove barriers to vaccination and to protect adults from vaccine-preventable diseases.