

SENATE RESOLUTION 182

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Kathryn Edwards upon her receipt of the 2020 John Howland Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute a medical professional who has made significant contributions in improving the lives and health of children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kathryn Edwards is the recipient of the 2020 John Howland Award, the highest honor given by the American Pediatric Society, in recognition of her significant contributions to pediatrics and vaccinology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kathryn Edwards is the Sarah H. Sell and Cornelius Vanderbilt Endowed Chair in Pediatrics and a professor of pediatrics at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, a position she has held since 1980; she is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, focused on the evaluation of vaccines for the prevention of infectious diseases in adults and children, Dr. Edwards has led many of the pivotal clinical trials of vaccines licensed in recent decades and has played a major role in their implementation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kathryn Edwards earned her medical degree from the University of Iowa, and she completed her residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, early in her career, Dr. Edwards aided in the development of vaccines to prevent Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), which was, at the time, a leading cause of sepsis and meningitis in young children; today, protein conjugate Hib and pneumococcal vaccines have virtually eliminated Hib and pneumococcal disease where these vaccines are used routinely; and

WHEREAS, her group's demonstration of the safety and effectiveness of both live and inactivated influenza vaccines in adults and children helped lead to the recommendation that all children under two years of age be immunized against the flu each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Dr. Edwards was awarded a contract by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct comprehensive pneumonia surveillance studies in more than 2,000 adults and children with community-acquired pneumonia; these studies established the burden and etiology of pneumonia in both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with her colleagues, Dr. Kathryn Edwards has demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of acellular pertussis vaccines and published pivotal papers on rotavirus, malaria, and other important vaccines; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Dr. Edwards was the principal investigator for a Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit contract funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and has received continuous support from the NIH and CDC for decades; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards has extensive experience in leading NIH-funded multicenter initiatives; designing, conducting, and analyzing pivotal Phase I, II, and III clinical studies on vaccines and therapeutics; facilitating networking with basic and clinical investigators with a wide range of interests and expertise; and mentoring many of the investigators who currently lead vaccine research programs locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, for the past decade, Dr. Kathryn Edwards has led a CDC-funded Center for Immunization Safety Assessment site at Vanderbilt, where she and her colleagues assess adverse events associated with vaccines in subjects of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards has a passion for mentoring young investigators, and many of her more than 650 research publications were published with her trainees and mentees; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Dr. Kathryn Edwards has received mentorship awards from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the Society for Pediatric Research, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and she was the 2018 recipient of the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards's work in evaluating the safety and effectiveness of vaccines has made a significant impact on the prevention and management of infectious diseases in children, and it is fitting that the members of this legislative body honor her at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Kathryn Edwards upon her receipt of the 2020 John Howland Award, thank her for her contributions to pediatrics and vaccinology, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.