A RESOLUTION recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, vaccines have aided in reducing the burden of widespread and often fatal diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing health care costs; and

WHEREAS, although much attention has been paid to the importance of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines and a misperception that adult vaccinations are unnecessary for those who are healthy; and

WHEREAS, adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, including diseases such as influenza, shingles, and pneumonia, are important public health issues in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza and pneumonia represent the eighth-leading cause of death among adults in the United States who are aged 65 years or older; and

WHEREAS, as the population across the United States continues to age, the impact of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases on adults will likely increase; and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that Vaccine-Preventable Diseases can result in complications for adults with chronic conditions, including long-term illness, hospitalization, and death; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control disease in the United States, and the CDC sets and periodically updates the United States adult immunization schedule based on recommendations from the ACIP; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends a variety of vaccines for adults aged 18 and older, including some recommendations that are universal and others that are targeted to individuals of a certain age, with specific risk factors, or who may have missed certain childhood vaccines; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has consistently seen adult vaccination compliance fall below
targets, and aims to increase compliance for influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in
adults as a part of its Healthy People 2020 goals; and

WHEREAS, research by Dr. Jeff Goad demonstrates that a large proportion of
adults being vaccinated receive their vaccines during evening, weekend, and holiday
hours at the pharmacy, when traditional vaccine providers are likely unavailable; and

WHEREAS, data from an issue of Clinical Therapeutics illustrates that states that
allow pharmacists to provide vaccination to adults have higher rates of vaccination than
states that do not allow pharmacists to provide vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the ability of pharmacists to administer all vaccines to adults helps
improve access to vaccines and increase vaccination rates; and

WHEREAS, according to an article published by Pharmacy Today, providing
immunizing pharmacists with bidirectional access to Immunization Information Systems,
in which they can both see and contribute to a patient’s immunization records, has been
shown to increase adult vaccination rates; and

WHEREAS, adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases can be reduced by increased
compliance rates for adult vaccination, helping to potentially reduce illness; and

WHEREAS, increasing adult vaccination requires a commitment from pharmacists,
health care providers and the Department for Public Health to recommend appropriate
vaccinations to adult patients so that they understand the importance of adult
vaccinations, and to provide appropriate education to providers to raise awareness about
the importance of this effort;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the
Commonwealth of Kentucky:

.Section 1. This honorable body recognizes that pharmacists can play a critical
role in improving vaccination rates, and should have the ability to administer all CDC-
recommended and Food and Drug Administration-approved immunizations to adults
without a physician/pharmacist protocol.

Section 2. This honorable body acknowledges that pharmacists should have the ability to seamlessly access and input data in the Kentucky Immunization Registry, to help further increase adult immunization rates and improve communication between health care providers.

Section 3. The House of Representatives does hereby designate the month of August 2018 as National Immunization Awareness Month, and all are urged to reinforce the importance of vaccination and the seriousness of the diseases they help to prevent.