

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends a variety of vaccines for adults aged
24 18 and older, including some recommendations that are universal and others that are
25 targeted to individuals of a certain age, with specific risk factors, or who may have
26 missed certain childhood vaccines; and

27 WHEREAS, the CDC has consistently seen adult vaccination compliance fall below

1 targets, and aims to increase compliance for influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in
2 adults as a part of its Healthy People 2020 goals; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

25 ➔Section 1. This honorable body recognizes that pharmacists can play a critical
26 role in improving vaccination rates, and should have the ability to administer all CDC-
27 recommended and Food and Drug Administration-approved immunizations to adults

1 without a physician/pharmacist protocol.

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

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