

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Blount,
Butler (38th), Frazier, Jackson (32nd), Stone

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTH PROVIDERS
2 IN MISSISSIPPI FOR HAVING THE HIGHEST NATIONAL KINDERGARTEN
3 VACCINATION RATES.

4 WHEREAS, Mississippi has the highest rate of vaccination
5 coverage for kindergarten students nationwide, according to a
6 recent report published by the CDC; and

7 WHEREAS, the 45,719 kindergarten students enrolled in public
8 and private kindergarten classrooms throughout the state during
9 the 2013-2014 school year had 99.7% vaccination coverage, greater
10 than the national median of 93.3-95% for the measles, mumps and
11 rubella (MMR) vaccine; the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis
12 (DTap); and the varicella vaccine; and

13 WHEREAS, immunizations against childhood diseases are
14 required by Mississippi law in order to enter school, Head Start
15 or day care. Specific vaccinations are also recommended for
16 students entering high school or college; and

17 WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Department of Health, rural
18 health clinics and local physicians provide all necessary



19 immunizations at low cost. Immunizations are free if the person
20 qualifies for the Vaccines for Children Program; and

21 WHEREAS, Mississippi requires five different vaccines to be
22 administered prior to entering First Grade. Childhood
23 immunizations are recommended from birth through 18 months, with
24 other vaccinations possible up to 18 years of age. Vaccinations
25 targeted specifically to adolescents and teenagers include those
26 against meningococcal disease and HPV. Those entering high school
27 and college should be protected against hepatitis and
28 meningococcal disease; and

29 WHEREAS, the MSDH grants all requests for medical exemptions
30 submitted by a licensed Mississippi pediatrician, family physician
31 or internist. Mississippi is one of 31 states that does not allow
32 philosophical exemptions for children attending school or day
33 care. The Mississippi Supreme Court deemed religious exemptions
34 unconstitutional in 1979. "Vaccines not only protect the children
35 who are vaccinated, but also protect those around them who may be
36 too young to be fully immunized or those with weakened immune
37 systems," said Dr. Currier; and

38 WHEREAS, "We continue to be very proud of our vaccination
39 rates," said MSDH State Health Officer Dr. Mary Currier.
40 "Mississippi's strong school entry immunization law is protecting
41 Mississippi residents from outbreaks of measles and other
42 vaccine-preventable diseases that other states have experienced";
43 and



44 WHEREAS, for U.S. children born between 1994 and 2013,
45 immunizations are estimated to prevent more than 300 million
46 illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize public and private health
49 providers in Mississippi for having the highest national
50 kindergarten vaccination rates.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
52 State Health Officer Dr. Mary Currier, forwarded to the State
53 Board of Health and the Rural Health Clinics Association for
54 distribution to the county health departments, and made available
55 to the Capitol Press Corps.

