

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1876

A RESOLUTION urging the extension of the influenza vaccination season.

WHEREAS, The most effective strategy for preventing influenza is annual vaccination; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control, the influenza vaccination rate for fully vaccinated children in Kansas was 19.5% for the 2006-2007 flu season; and

WHEREAS, Beginning with the 2008-2009 influenza season, vaccination of all children aged six months to 18 years is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); and

WHEREAS, Annual vaccination of all children aged six months through 18 years should begin as soon as vaccine is available in the 2008-2009 influenza season, but should be initiated no later than the 2009-2010 season. Strategies that focus on providing routine vaccination to persons at higher risk for influenza complications have long been recommended, although rates of flu vaccination among the majority of these groups remains low; and

WHEREAS, During the 2007-2008 influenza season there were 87 reported pediatric deaths caused by influenza in the United States. Influenza is the most frequent cause of death for a vaccine-preventable disease in the United States and is responsible for an average of 200,000 hospitalizations each year and an estimated 36,000 deaths, primarily among the elderly; and

WHEREAS, According to the AAP, the ACIP's expanded recommendations target all school-aged children, the population that bears the greatest burden of disease and is at higher risk of needing influenza-related medical care compared with healthy adults. Moreover, the AAP states that reducing influenza transmission among school-aged children will in turn reduce transmission of influenza to household contacts and community members; and

WHEREAS, Influenza vaccine should be offered to all children as soon as vaccine becomes available prior to the start of the season and should continue into March and beyond, as there is often more than one peak in influenza illness during the same season. Thus, the AAP states that vaccination through May 1st can provide protection and increase the window of opportunity for children who need two doses of vaccine; and

WHEREAS, School-based vaccination is an efficient venue for the mass vaccination of school-age children against influenza. Moreover, school-based vaccination programs benefit the communities in which they are conducted by helping reduce transmission of influenza to other members of the community. The potential threat of an influenza pandemic underscores the benefit of building local infrastructure and strengthening community partnerships as a preventive measure to address both seasonal influenza and the event of pandemic: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we urge the extension of the influenza vaccination season, both earlier and later, in order to vaccinate and protect children, adults and especially those in high risk groups; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we recognize the importance of protecting all Kansans during this influenza season against this dangerous and potentially deadly disease; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Vicki Schmidt.

Senate Resolution No. 1876 was sponsored by Senator Vicki Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*