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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 864

Offered February 18, 1999

Designating Infant Immunization Week in Virginia.

Patrons—Moran, Almand, Armstrong, Baskerville, Behm, Bennett, Brink, Clement, Croshaw, Deeds, Hall, Hull, Jackson, Keating, Puller, Shuler, Van Landingham and Woodrum

Consent to introduce

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, inadequate infant immunization is a community health problem that can be prevented with proper immunization, which lays a foundation for lifelong health, keeps children safe from deadly diseases, and saves health care costs; and

WHEREAS, diseases such as measles, whooping cough, rubella, chicken pox, which can be prevented through immunization, continue to occur throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the people of the Commonwealth be made aware that proper immunization of children before the age of two years is crucial for the prevention of these often serious diseases: and

WHEREAS, Inova Alexandria Hospital, the Alexandria Health Department, and Stop Child Abuse Now of Northern Virginia (SCAN) are working together to overcome the barriers that make immunizing babies difficult by educating parents about the importance of early immunization, encouraging health care providers to improve access to immunization services, and seeking long-term policy changes that will ensure full immunization status for all children under the age of two years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate the week of April 18 to 24, 1999, as Infant Immunization Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge the citizens of Virginia to work together toward ensuring that all of the Commonwealth's children are fully immunized before reaching the age of two years.