

By: Representatives Magie, C. Armstrong, E. Armstrong, Baltz, Bennett, Blake, Boyd, Broadway, Cozart, D. Ferguson, K. Ferguson, Fielding, V. Flowers, M. Gray, Hillman, M. Hodges, House, Jett, Johnson, Lampkin, Leding, Lemons, Love, McElroy, G. McGill, Murdock, Nicks, B. Overbey, Ratliff, Richey, Sabin, Sturch, Talley, Tucker, Vaught, Walker, D. Whitaker, Wright

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE BETTY FLANAGAN BUMPERS FOR HER WORK TO PROMOTE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION; AND TO ENCOURAGE ARKANSAS FAMILIES TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION.

### Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE BETTY FLANAGAN BUMPERS FOR HER WORK TO PROMOTE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION; AND TO ENCOURAGE ARKANSAS FAMILIES TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION.

WHEREAS, Betty Bumpers has dedicated her life to addressing issues affecting children's health; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bumpers is a former elementary school teacher and the wife of former Arkansas Governor and United States Senator Dale Bumpers; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, while her husband was governor, Mrs. Bumpers began to work on important issues of health and education affecting Arkansas families and children; and

WHEREAS, when Mrs. Bumpers became the First Lady, Arkansas had one of the lowest immunization rates in the nation; and



WHEREAS, Mrs. Bumpers spearheaded the Every Child by '74 campaign of volunteers, which immunized over 350,000 Arkansas children in one day, achieving one of the highest immunization rates in the country; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bumpers moved to Washington D.C. in 1974 after her husband's election to the Senate where she promoted this program as a national model along with help from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services, known then as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, after a measles epidemic killed over 200 children, Mrs. Bumpers and former First Lady Rosalyn Carter along with the Carter Center launched the national Every Child by Two campaign, with the goal of assuring immunizations for all children by the age of 2, which contributed to an immunization rate of 90% for children under 2; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, President Bill Clinton along with Congress created at the National Institutes of Medicine the Betty and Dale Bumpers Vaccine Research Center; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mrs. Bumpers testified before the United States Senate Health, Labor and Pensions Committee about the need for a systematic delivery of vaccines and supported legislation to require health plans to cover childhood immunizations; and

WHEREAS, in light of serious health events currently affecting children's health in our country and the increasing number of children who do not receive essential vaccinations, the Senate encourages Arkansas families to consult with healthcare professionals to discuss the benefits of childhood immunizations and to give serious consideration to the value of childhood immunizations,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly recognizes Betty Flanagan Bumpers for her tireless efforts to promote childhood immunization and encourages Arkansas families to consider seriously the importance of childhood immunization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Bumpers by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.