



HR0116

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, During the transition from childhood to
3 adolescence, adolescents may not have access to or the
4 awareness of the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to
5 establish healthy patterns of behavior and make the
6 appropriate lifestyle choices that will improve both their
7 current and future health; and

8 WHEREAS, Many adolescents may not have access to primary
9 healthcare services; in Illinois, over 120,000 children
10 between the ages of birth and eighteen have no insurance; in
11 2018, 33.8% of 12 to 17 year olds did not receive a preventive
12 medical visit; and

13 WHEREAS, Adolescence is a critical time to develop
14 positive habits and skills that can lead to a healthy
15 lifestyle and behavior over an adolescent's lifetime; the
16 Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council
17 conducted a study that found that one important factor in
18 designing an adolescent health service is the focus on
19 prevention of disease; one of the study's findings concluded
20 that prevention, early intervention, and timely treatment
21 improve health status for adolescents, prepare them for
22 healthy adulthood, and decrease the incidence of many chronic
23 diseases in adulthood; and

1 WHEREAS, Adolescents and young adults are adversely
2 affected by serious health and safety issues, such as motor
3 vehicle crashes, violence, and substance abuse; they also
4 struggle to adopt behaviors that could decrease their risk of
5 developing chronic diseases in adulthood, such as eating
6 nutritiously, engaging in physical activity, and choosing not
7 to use tobacco; environmental factors such as family, peer
8 group, school, and community also contribute to the challenges
9 that adolescents face; and

10 WHEREAS, In the past few years, immunizations have been
11 licensed to provide protection for adolescents against
12 infections and diseases, such as meningitis, tetanus,
13 diphtheria, acellular pertussis, influenza, and cancers caused
14 by human papillomavirus (HPV); and

15 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
16 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the
17 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of
18 Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Medical Association
19 (AMA) recommend a routine healthcare visit for adolescents who
20 are eleven or twelve years of age to receive all recommended
21 immunizations and other evidence-based preventive healthcare
22 services; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human
2 Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
3 has developed, in conjunction with AAP, the Bright Futures
4 Initiative, which provides a set of guidelines with
5 recommendations on immunizations and routine health screenings
6 for adolescents; and

7 WHEREAS, ACIP recommends the use of FDA-approved vaccines
8 for tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis, meningitis,
9 influenza, and cervical cancer caused by HPV in adolescents,
10 but the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted adolescent access to
11 essential healthcare services, including immunization; and

12 WHEREAS, The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
13 has found that adolescent well visits are one of the best tools
14 of preventive care to ensure continued health from childhood
15 to adulthood and that children and adolescents who regularly
16 visit a primary care physician are less likely to have
17 emergency room visits and preventable hospitalizations; and

18 WHEREAS, Because adolescents remain under the care of
19 their parents or guardians, the need for greater awareness for
20 all on the importance of an adolescent well visit is
21 paramount; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we hereby express support for improved adolescent health and
3 wellness by recognizing the importance of an adolescent well
4 visit to prevent chronic diseases, help better diagnosis and
5 treat chronic diseases, and update immunizations; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be delivered to
8 the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois
9 Department of Human Services to disseminate to State and
10 federal agencies and stakeholder organizations that can assist
11 with the promotion of adolescent well health in Illinois.