ABSTRACT

The purpose of this resolution is to increase awareness of the alarming drop in childhood immunizations. The decrease in childhood vaccinations is becoming a problem in the United States. More and more parents are opting out of vaccinations for their children every year. After examining the reasoning for this we discovered that the problem is lack of the availability correct information about vaccines resulting in fear of adverse events. Educating parents, and future parents, of the importance of vaccines we believe we could have higher vaccination rates in the United States.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATING PARENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF**

**CILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS**

**SUBMITTED BY: Grand View University**

**AUTHORS: Erin Baack and Breana Sitzman**

**WHEREAS,** Immunization is a proven tool for controlling and eliminating life-threatening

infectious diseases. It is estimated to avert between two and three million deaths worldwide annually (Hill & Cox, 2013); and

**WHEREAS**, In 1998, the confirmed cases of the diseases were: measles, n=42; mumps n=67

and rubella n=28. The HPA's data for confirmed cases of these diseases in 2009

were: measles n=876; mumps n=5695 and rubella n=9 (Hill & Cox, 2013); and

In the United States, only 76.1% of children have received the complete

recommended vaccination protocol (Whyte, Whyte, & Eccles, 2011); and

**WHEREAS,** A significant minority of parents hold important misperceptions that undermine

their confidence in vaccine safety and lead some parents to refuse some of all

child vaccines (Whyte, et al., 2011); and

**WHEREAS,** Addressing these types of concerns for parents has the potential to improve

vaccination rates as children are more likely to be vaccinated if their parents are

less concerned about adverse events (Wu, et al., 2008); and

**WHEREAS,** Studies have demonstrated that parents who report a lack of information to make informed decisions about vaccines are more likely to report a low level of trust in health care providers and government sources (Whyte, et al., 2011); and

**WHEREAS,** Parents lack factual information to guide their decision-making when

controversies or questions arise. Parents who feel that they lack adequate access

to information about vaccination are more likely to have negative attitudes to

vaccination, and improved understanding of immunization is postulated to lead

parents to seek vaccinations for their children (Wu, et al., 2008); and

**WHEREAS,** Several studies looking at parent attitudes toward vaccination found that

parents/women who reported being skeptical or hesitant about vaccines could be positively influenced to vaccinate their child by a healthcare provider whom they trusted (Link-Gelles, et al.,2012); and

**WHEREAS,** Many parents rely on immunization information from their physicians;

pediatricians spend only 1.9 min per visit discussing vaccinations and only 5% of

families read vaccine information materials that are provided. It is not surprising that only 67% of patents report they have access to enough information to make a decision about immunizing their children (Wu, et al., 2008); therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Iowa Association of Nursing Students (IANS) encourage nursing programs to educate nursing students on the importance of vaccines, if feasible and be it further;

**RESOLVED,** that IANS promote awareness of free online workshops about immunizations offered by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention by publishing information about the workshops on the IANS website, if feasible; and be it further resolved that;

**RESOLVED,** thata copy of this resolution be posted on the IANS website to increase

Awareness, if feasible; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that IANS send a copy of this resolution to, Immunization Action Coalition, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Network for Immunization, all nursing programs in the state of Iowa, and all others deemed appropriate by the IANS Board of Directors.