VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY
RESOLUTION

Increasing Immunizations Rates of Vermonters

Adopted on October 3, 2009

WHEREAS, Immunizations have been one of the most important health interventions of the 20th century and have eliminated smallpox infections worldwide, driven polio from North America, and made formerly common infections like diphtheria, tetanus, measles, and invasive Haemophilus influenzae (HIB) infections extremely rare occurrences; and

WHEREAS, In the United States alone, it is estimated that more than 14 million children a year thwart diseases through immunizations, preventing more than 33,000 deaths a year, and 3 million deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Vaccines are 90-99% effective at preventing disease; and

WHEREAS, Despite the success and efficacy of immunizations parents and adults increasingly continue to refuse immunizations for their children and themselves; and

WHEREAS, A decrease in immunizations has lead to significant outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases (such as measles, H Flu type B (HIB) and pertussis); and

WHEREAS, Vaccine-preventable diseases occur everyday in other parts of the world and remain only an airplane ride away; and

WHEREAS, The reasons for not immunizing, i.e. “too many vaccines”, “concerns about safety”, “fear of autism”, “concerns about mercury”, “media misinformation”, “children are too little” and the “absence of disease” in the US – are many commonly held beliefs about risks and are not supported by data; and

WHEREAS, There are multiple studies which show the safety of vaccines and no correlation between vaccines and autism; and

WHEREAS, The benefits provided by most vaccines extend beyond benefit to the individual who is immunized - there is also significant public health benefit; and

WHEREAS, Vaccines are important for adults and adolescents as well as children; and

WHEREAS, Far too many adults become ill, are disabled, and die each year from diseases that could easily have been prevented by vaccines; and

WHEREAS, Decreases in the percentage of people who are immunized, can result in social and economic as well as physical costs: sick children miss school, parents lose time from work, and illness among healthcare practitioners can severely disrupt a healthcare system; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society encourages its members to actively participate in the Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society encourages its members to actively participate in the Vermont Department of Health Immunization Registry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society collaborates with the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter (AAPVT), the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians (VAFP) and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to educate their members and the public about the importance of fully immunizing the population; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society supports activities and work together with the AAPVT, VAFP and the VDH to achieve the highest immunization rates possible.