February 11, 2016 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, HARRIS DODD, MILLER and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives BERCEAU, HINTZ, JORGENSEN, SPREITZER and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: proclaiming August 2016 as National Immunization Awareness Month.

Whereas, immunizations have been a critical part of our history. By drastically decreasing the number of people affected by measles, varicella, HPV, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, HIB, mumps, meningococcal, polio, rubella, smallpox, yellow fever, and many more, immunizations have shaped the way our society has been able to thrive and exist; and

Whereas, August is designated as Immunization Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to reflect on the value of immunization, become educated about the many different types of vaccines, and encourage everyone to become vaccinated to protect their health; and

Whereas, although immunizations are an incredible tool for combatting infectious disease, 113 countries have higher measles immunization rates than the U.S. for one−year−olds and many in rural areas do not have access to these life−saving drugs; and
Whereas, while many people have been vaccinated, there are still many who do not have the proper immunizations. August is a time to emphasize the importance of everyone from infants to the elderly receiving immunizations and provide the steps needed to get them; and

Whereas, immunizations protect the community-at-large by limiting the spread of disease among those who are too young or otherwise unable to receive immunizations. When only a small percentage of the population is vaccinated, the risk of a disease outbreak is greater than if many are vaccinated; and

Whereas, August is a period for educators, schools, health care professionals, and other members of the community to come together and educate others about the importance of immunizations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature hereby proclaims August 2016 as National Immunization Awareness Month.

(END)