



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes historically *has* been centrally involved in immunization issues, as it was founded to drive and coordinate the ultimately successful effort to develop a polio vaccine, which has virtually eliminated polio epidemics; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has expanded its mission to improving the health of infants and women, and understands that vaccines are the single best way to protect not only women and children, but entire communities from serious and sometimes fatal infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, National Immunization Awareness Month is intended to highlight the importance of continuing to fight against infectious diseases through the use of vaccines, which the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) declared one of the top ten public health accomplishments of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the continued immunization efforts of parents, families, doctors, public health systems, institutions and other healthcare professionals has significantly reduced the threat of many infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, our nation is still failing to meet the national public health goals of vaccination rates for some diseases; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the United States suffered a 60-year record high outbreak of pertussis cases (commonly referred to as whooping cough), which is often thought of as a disease of the past, with 48,277 cases of pertussis reported according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a record number of reported measles cases this year, with 288 cases reported to the CDC between January 1st and May 23, 2014, with 90 percent of those cases involving unvaccinated people; and

WHEREAS, people need to receive immunizations throughout their lives, and pregnant women in particular need to make sure they receive all the necessary vaccines to protect their own health as well as the health of their infants, who are especially vulnerable during the first few months of life; and

WHEREAS, pregnant women need to receive the flu vaccine in addition to other recommended vaccines because pregnant women are at a higher risk of hospitalization and even death than are nonpregnant women, and because vaccination can protect babies up to six months after birth while they are too young to receive the vaccine themselves; and

WHEREAS, vaccines are demonstrated to be an extremely safe method of preventing disease, as they are thoroughly tested before licensing and carefully monitored to ensure safety; and they *also* are a highly cost-effective way to prevent disease, as they are protecting not only individuals but also entire communities by reducing and preventing the spread of infectious diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim August 2014 to be

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fifth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE