

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR BURKE**

RE: Resolution in favor of vaccination as an important measure in public health and safety

WHEREAS, Niagara Region Public Health Officials confirmed a case of measles in nearby Niagara Falls, Canada on February 4, 2015; and

WHEREAS, measles is an airborne virus that is highly contagious, which can linger up to three hours after an infected person has left an area; and

WHEREAS, outbreaks of the measles have occurred across the United States in recent weeks, infecting 102 people in 14 states since January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the 102 people infected represents an increase in infection over the 644 cases reported in all of 2014 by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, vaccinations not only protect the health of a child, but also the health of the whole community; and

WHEREAS, 169 of 321 schools in Erie County are reporting a 99% to 100% immunization rate; and

WHEREAS, 25 schools in Erie County have reported immunization rates lower than 95%; and

WHEREAS, concerns about the dangers of the MMR vaccine are scientifically unfounded and is considered by health professionals to be safe and effective vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, Erie County Legislature requests the Department of Health take steps to increase awareness about the importance of vaccination in the communities surrounding schools with low levels of immunization; and be it further

RESOLVED, Erie County Legislature encourages families to heed the advice of health professionals when making the important decision to vaccinate their children.

Fiscal Impact: This resolution will have no fiscal impact on the County of Erie.