

## HJR202 ENROLLED



1 HJR202  
2 BYVNY4J-2  
3 By Representative Warren  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 03-Apr-25



## HJR202 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2  
3 COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONWIDE POLIO  
4 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

5 WHEREAS, seventy years ago, in 1955, the United  
6 States embarked on a historic public health initiative, the  
7 nationwide polio eradication campaign, marking the beginning  
8 of the end for a disease that had long afflicted children  
9 and adults, leaving thousands paralyzed or dead each year;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, polio is a highly infectious disease that  
12 has existed for thousands of years, and which primarily  
13 affects children under the age of five causing paralysis and  
14 death; and for which there is no known cure; and

15 WHEREAS, through the groundbreaking work of many  
16 physicians and scientists, the development of the first safe  
17 and effective polio vaccine offered hope to millions of  
18 families across Alabama, the United States, and the world;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, in the early years in the fight against  
21 polio, Black doctors and researchers at the Tuskegee  
22 Infantile Paralysis Center at Tuskegee Institute, now  
23 Tuskegee University, conducted significant work in treating  
24 and eradicating polio, with the center serving as the only  
25 place in the South where African American children with  
26 polio could come for treatment; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1955, Ira Myers, M.D. became  
28 administrative officer and assistant to then State Health



## HJR202 Enrolled

29 Officer Dr. D.G. Gill; he helped initiate the mass Salk  
30 Polio Vaccine Program in Alabama, after having served from  
31 1950 to 1955 in the federal Public Health Service as Senior  
32 Surgeon, Chief Epidemic Intelligence Officer, Communicable  
33 Disease Center; he participated in field studies of polio  
34 epidemiology and trials of the Salk polio vaccine and  
35 coauthored several scientific articles in national  
36 publications detailing the cause, effects, and treatment for  
37 polio and other similar viral infections; and

38 WHEREAS, on April 12, 1955, the largest vaccination  
39 effort in U.S. history began, which ultimately led to the  
40 eradication of polio in the United States; President Dwight  
41 Eisenhower, whose administration played a key role in  
42 funding polio research and ensuring widespread distribution  
43 of the vaccine, stated, "I think that this is one of the  
44 greatest events of our time"; and

45 WHEREAS, this anniversary serves as a reminder of the  
46 power of science, medicine, and collective action in  
47 overcoming such a terrible and devastating disease affecting  
48 children and stands as one of the greatest public health  
49 triumphs of the 20th century; now therefore,

50 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
51 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby commemorate the  
52 70th Anniversary of the nationwide polio eradication  
53 campaign and acknowledge and salute the tremendous  
54 accomplishments of all the scientists, physicians, public  
55 health personnel, parents, and others, many Alabamians among  
56 them, who made this remarkable achievement possible.



## HJR202 Enrolled

57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 09-Apr-25.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

---

**15-Apr-25**

---

Adopted