

## HJR202 INTRODUCED



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



1  
2  
3  
4 HJR\_\_\_\_ COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONWIDE  
5 POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.  
6

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

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

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

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



## HJR202 INTRODUCED

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

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

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

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
53 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby commemorate the  
54 70th Anniversary of the nationwide polio eradication  
55 campaign and acknowledge and salute the tremendous  
56 accomplishments of all the scientists, physicians, public



## **HJR202 INTRODUCED**

57 health personnel, parents, and others, many Alabamians among  
58 them, who made this remarkable achievement possible.