

March 5, 2015

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 4

**LYNNE M. DIXON**  
**CHAIR**

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT LEGISLATOR MORTON.

1. INTRO. 3-2 (2015)

**BURKE**

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.

(4-0)