House Bill 243 ensures children have all their immunizations and access to complete and current records

*by Rep. Donna Howard*

**Good for Families**

Safeguards immunization history and increases access to records: for entry into school, camp, daycare, military, college, health care professions, and first responder roles.

Assists parents in keeping track of immunizations: Parents may not realize when their child is due for an immunization or may lose track of what has been administered when changes in the schedule are made.

**Good for Privacy**

Strengthens the security and privacy of data: Data may not be used to exclude anyone from medical services during an emergency, and data may not be sold to any entity.

Clarifies how data can be used: DSHS and outside researchers will be required to obtain Institutional Review Board approval prior to using data for public health research.

**Good for Providers**

Improves patient outcomes: A better-populated registry reduces duplication of services and ensures more comprehensive care.

Simplifies immunization record keeping: Allows physicians to easily find immunizations for new patients, provides official copies of immunization records, and reduces or eliminates duplicate or over-immunization.

**Good for Taxpayers**

Can reduce agency cost and administration of the program.

Supports modernization: Lays the foundation to replace the antiquated registry with a more efficient, robust, and secure system.

Boosts efficiency: Makes it easier to identify those who do not wish to be included.

The Texas Public Health Coalition and Texas Pediatric Society support an immunization opt-out registry for current and complete vaccination records for children and families:

✔ Modernizes the state immunization registry, ImmTrac.

✔ Reduces burden on providers and families by including information in ImmTrac by default.

✔ Provides ample opportunity for individuals to remove information at any time.