

## **NASS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL POLIO EDUCATION ERADICATION INITIATIVE**

### **WHEREAS,**

- polio is a highly infectious disease that has been eliminated in the United States and over 200 countries globally;
- the 165 member States of the World Health Assembly unanimously resolved to eradicate polio in 1988;
- the Global Community, led by an extraordinary public/private sector collaboration which includes governments, UN agencies, more than 1.2 million members of Rotary clubs, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has invested more than US\$9 billion in global polio eradication since 1988, including more than US\$2 billion invested by the United States, more than US\$1 billion invested by Rotary International; and more than US\$1 billion invested by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
- polio is a highly infectious disease which can be easily transmitted both locally and globally; thereby threatening children everywhere including in countries like the United States which are considered to be polio free;
- only three countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan) have never interrupted transmission of polio. All other countries have managed to interrupt transmission of polio, including the world's most populous countries and countries facing challenges including active conflict and lack of infrastructure;
- there are fewer cases of polio in fewer countries than at any other point in recorded history (as of April 2012);
- at their May 2012 meeting, the Member States of the World Health Assembly declared polio a public health emergency of international concern; and
- there will be 200,000 cases of polio annually if the world fails to capitalize on the opportunity to interrupt transmission of polio in the few places where it persists.

### **THEREFORE, be it resolved the National Association of Secretaries of State:**

- express our full support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and the goal of a polio free world;
- applaud the progress made toward eliminating this crippling disease;
- recognize the unique contribution made by Rotary International as a spearheading partner of the global polio eradication that has contributed over US\$ 1 billion and thousands of hours of volunteer service in support in this historic effort;
- urge the United States Government to provide the necessary financial resources to eradicate polio;
- encourage the public at large and the international donor community to provide the funding needed; and
- Encourage the remaining polio affected countries to provide the necessary oversight, human, and financial resources in order to eradicate polio.

Adopted the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012  
in San Juan, Puerto Rico

EXPIRES: Summer 2017