



HR0797

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is any infection caused by
3 the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, or meningococcus;
4 although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria with no
5 signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis*
6 bacteria can cause illness; and

7 WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is spread from person to
8 person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory and
9 throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

10 WHEREAS, There are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of
11 meningococcal disease that occur in the United States each
12 year; 10-15% of infected individuals will die, while 11-19% of
13 those who live will suffer from serious morbidity, including
14 loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

15 WHEREAS, Infants under one year of age and young adults
16 between the ages of 16 and 21 are most commonly impacted by
17 this disease; and

18 WHEREAS, There are different strains or serogroups of
19 *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting
20 for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, There have been several recent outbreaks of
2 serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with
3 some cases resulting in death; and

4 WHEREAS, Vaccines are available to prevent meningococcal
5 disease; different vaccines provide coverage against certain
6 specific serogroups of the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, While there are vaccines that help provide
8 protection against all 3 serogroups (B, C, and Y) commonly seen
9 in the United States, only vaccination for serogroups A, C, W,
10 and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease
11 Control and Prevention; and

12 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
13 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that
14 decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults 16 through
15 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease
16 should be made at the individual level with health care
17 providers; and

18 WHEREAS, It is critical that students, parents, educators,
19 and health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis
20 B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease
21 resulting from this serogroup; and

1 WHEREAS, The recent incidences of meningococcal disease
2 has served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play
3 in helping to prevent this devastating illness; therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
7 urge all private and public high schools, colleges, and
8 universities in the State of Illinois to provide information to
9 all students and parents about meningococcal disease,
10 explaining the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks,
11 and treatments; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That such information should also include a
13 notice of availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all
14 meningococcal vaccines receiving a recommendation from the
15 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including
16 Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific
17 information as to those persons at higher risk for the disease;
18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge each private and public high school,
20 college, and university in the State to recommend that current
21 and entering students receive meningococcal vaccines in
22 accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization
23 Practices guidelines; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be made
2 available to all private and public high schools, colleges, and
3 universities in the State.