

By Senator Legg

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 9, 2014, as
3 "Immunization and Bacterial Meningitis Awareness Day"
4 in Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, bacterial meningitis is a deadly, debilitating
7 disease that affects infants, children, teenagers, young adults,
8 and persons with compromised immune systems, and

9 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is the most common cause of
10 bacterial meningitis, and pneumococcal and Hib meningitis are
11 two forms of the disease, which is an inflammation of the
12 meninges, the thin membrane that covers the brain and spinal
13 cord, and

14 WHEREAS, bacterial meningitis can strike an otherwise
15 healthy person without warning and can kill or totally
16 debilitate a healthy person within hours, and

17 WHEREAS, one in ten persons who contract bacterial
18 meningitis dies, and, of those who survive, one in five persons
19 suffers from long-term complications, which may include loss of
20 limbs, vision, and hearing; learning and mental disabilities;
21 paralysis; seizures; and severe organ damage, and

22 WHEREAS, eradication of all vaccine-preventable diseases,
23 especially bacterial meningitis, is an achievable, pressing
24 public health objective, with the vaccination of infants,
25 children, teenagers, and adults a key step in prevention, and

26 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the work of the
27 Department of Health, the Meningitis Angels, the Pinellas
28 Immunization Team for Community Health (PITCH), and the
29 producers and crew of the film *Invisible Threat*, all of whom

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30 have contributed to and raised public awareness about bacterial
31 meningitis and the importance of vaccinations, while urging
32 citizens to support the search for a cure and to assist
33 individuals and families who deal with bacterial meningitis
34 daily, NOW, THEREFORE,

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36 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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38 That April 9, 2014, is recognized as "Immunization and
39 Bacterial Meningitis Awareness Day" in Florida to honor those
40 who have died and those who continue to struggle with the
41 effects of bacterial meningitis; to advance the common goals of
42 vaccination and immunization education; and to encourage all
43 Floridians to work together to eradicate bacterial meningitis
44 and other vaccine-preventable diseases.