

By Senator Book

32-01548-18

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of awareness of meningococcal disease, and all five dangerous strains of the disease, including meningococcal B.

WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitides*, or meningococcus, and

WHEREAS, 1 in 10 people are carriers of these bacteria, and since they do not have any signs or symptoms of disease, may not know that *Neisseria meningitides* can sometimes cause illness, and

WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of bacteria through respiratory and throat secretions during close or lengthy contact, and

WHEREAS, nationwide, 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal disease are diagnosed each year, and

WHEREAS, 10 to 15 percent of infected individuals die, and 11 to 19 percent of those who survive suffer from serious morbidity, including the loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system, and

WHEREAS, infants under 1 year of age, as well as young adults between the ages of 16 and 21, are most commonly impacted by this disease, and

WHEREAS, there are 12 different strains, or serogroups, of *Neisseria meningitides*, with serogroups A, B, C, W, and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United States, and

WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with some

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30 cases resulting in death, and

31 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection
32 against all five serogroups commonly seen in the United States,
33 and

34 WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is
35 routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and
36 Prevention (CDC), and

37 WHEREAS, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization
38 Practices recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and
39 young adults ages 16 to 23 against serogroup B meningococcal
40 disease should be made at the individual level in consultation
41 with their health care providers, and

42 WHEREAS, the recent incidences of meningococcal disease
43 have served as a reminder of the critical role that vaccinations
44 play in helping to prevent this devastating illness and to
45 maintain public health, NOW, THEREFORE,

46

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

48

49 That the Florida Senate recognizes the importance of
50 awareness of meningococcal disease, and all five dangerous
51 strains of the disease, including meningococcal B.