

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 57

By: Yen

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution to raise awareness of the importance of
8 vaccinations in preventing meningococcal disease; and
9 to encourage high school and college age students and
10 their parents to educate themselves about the
11 devastating illness.

12 WHEREAS, in the U.S., there are approximately 1,000 to 1,200
13 cases of meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

14 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 percent of infected individuals will die,
15 while 11 to 19 percent of those who live will suffer from serious
16 side effects, including loss of limbs and negative impacts to the
17 nervous system; and

18 WHEREAS, young adults between the ages of 16 and 21 are some of
19 the most commonly impacted by the disease; and

20 WHEREAS, there are different strains, or serogroups, of the
21 bacteria causing meningitis, with serogroups B, C and Y accounting
22 for most meningococcal diseases in the U.S.; and

23 WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B
24 meningitis on college campuses, some resulting in death; and

1 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection against
2 all three serogroups commonly seen in the U.S.; and

3 WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is routinely
4 recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

5 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators and
6 health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis B and are
7 aware that a vaccine is available. The CDC recommends that
8 decisions to vaccinate those ages 16 to 23 against serogroup B
9 should be made at the individual level with health care providers;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the medical community, the educational system, parents
12 and advocates working together to increase education and awareness
13 of meningococcal disease will protect the health of high school and
14 college students who are at a higher risk of contracting this
15 debilitating and life-altering disease.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
17 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate wishes to raise awareness of the
19 critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent the
20 devastating effects of meningococcal disease.

21 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages all high school and
22 college age students and their parents to educate themselves about
23 the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks and treatment.

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