

1 House Resolution

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

5
6 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an infection caused by
7 the bacterium *Neisseria meningitides*, or meningococcus, and

8 WHEREAS, 1 in 10 people are carriers of these bacteria and,
9 since they have no signs or symptoms of disease, may not know
10 that *Neisseria meningitides* can sometimes cause illness, and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 percent of infected individuals die, and
17 11 to 19 percent of those who survive suffer from serious
18 morbidity, including the loss of limbs and impacts to the
19 nervous system, and

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

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

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26 | and

27 | WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of
28 | serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with some
29 | cases resulting in death, and

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

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

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

41 |
42 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
43 | Florida:

44 |
45 | That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes the
46 | importance of awareness of meningococcal disease and all five
47 | dangerous strains of the disease, including meningococcal B.