

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1776

A RESOLUTION recognizing the importance of meningococcal disease awareness and prevention.

WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, or meningococcus. Although one in 10 people are carriers of this bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness; and

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

WHEREAS, In the U.S., there are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal disease each year; and

WHEREAS, Ten to 15 percent of infected individuals will die, while 11 to 19 percent of those who live will suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

WHEREAS, Infants under one 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 different strains or serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the U.S.; and

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

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

WHEREAS, While there are vaccines that help provide protection against all three serogroups commonly seen in the United States, only the vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

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

WHEREAS, It is critical that students, parents, educators and healthcare providers understand the dangers of meningitidis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease resulting from this serogroup: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize the importance of meningococcal disease awareness and prevention. The recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping prevent this devastating illness; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we take all reasonable steps to urge all private and public high schools, colleges and universities in Kansas to provide information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease, explaining the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks and treatment; and

*Be it further resolved:* That such information should also include a notice of availability, benefits, risks and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific information as to those persons at higher risk for the disease; and

*Be it further resolved:* That each private and public high school, college and university should recommend that both current and new students receive meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidelines; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Schmidt.

Senate Resolution No. 1776 was sponsored by Senator Vicki Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*