

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 17

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HUBRECHT.

1539H.011

**WHEREAS**, meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, or meningococcus. Although 1 in 10 people are carriers for 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 that occur each year; and

**WHEREAS**, 10 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 different vaccines provide coverage against certain specific serogroups of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, while there are vaccines that help provide protection against all three serogroups (B, C, and Y) commonly seen in the U.S., only vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

31           **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on  
32 Immunization Practices recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults  
33 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should be made at the  
34 individual level with health care providers; and

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36           **WHEREAS**, it is critical that students, parents, educators, and health care providers  
37 understand the dangers of meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent  
38 disease resulting from this serogroup:

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40           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
41 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
42 concurring therein, hereby find that the recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served  
43 as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating illness;  
44 and

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46           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Health and Senior Services take  
47 all reasonable steps to urge all private and public high schools, colleges, and universities in  
48 Missouri to provide information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease,  
49 explaining the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks, and treatment; and

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51           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such information shall also include a notice of  
52 availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a  
53 recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including Category  
54 A and Category B recommendations, with specific information as to those persons at higher risk  
55 for the disease; and

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57           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each private and public high school, college, and  
58 university shall recommend that current and entering students receive meningococcal vaccines  
59 in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidelines; and

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61           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
62 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for every  
63 private and public high school, college, and university in Missouri.

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