

1 SJR78
2 191944-2
3 By Senator Brewbaker
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 22-FEB-18

1 SJR78

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4 ENROLLED, SJR78,

5 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE
6 AWARENESS AND PREVENTION.

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8 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection
9 caused by the bacterium Neisseria meningitides, or
10 meningococcus; one in 10 people are carriers of this bacteria
11 with no signs or symptoms of disease; and

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

15 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are
16 approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal disease
17 each year; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, there are different strains or serogroups
2 of *Neisseria meningitides*, with serogroups B, C, and Y
3 accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United
4 States; and

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents,
21 educators, and health care providers understand the dangers of
22 meningitides B and are aware that a vaccine is available to
23 prevent disease resulting from this serogroup; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize the importance of
3 meningococcal disease awareness and prevention.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we take all reasonable
5 steps to urge all colleges and universities in Alabama to
6 educate students on the benefits and risks of meningococcal
7 immunization in accordance with the latest recommendations of
8 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR78
Senate 01-MAR-18
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 08-MAR-18

By: Senator Brewbaker