

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING ALL STATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS,
3 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ALL
4 STUDENTS AND PARENTS ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, EXPLAINING
5 THE DIFFERENT DISEASE SEROGROUPS, SYMPTOMS, RISKS, VACCINES
6 AND TREATMENTS.

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8 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection caused
9 by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*; and

10 WHEREAS, although one in ten people are carriers of this
11 bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes
12 *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness; and

13 WHEREAS, there are approximately eight hundred to one
14 thousand five hundred cases of meningococcal disease that
15 occur each year; and

16 WHEREAS, ten to fifteen out of one hundred infected
17 people will die even when treated, while approximately ten or
18 twenty out of every one hundred people who survive will
19 suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and
20 impacts to the nervous system; and

21 WHEREAS, infants under one year of age and young adults
22 between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three are among those
23 most commonly affected by this disease; and

24 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to
25 person by the exchange of bacteria through respiratory and

1 throat secretions during close or lengthy contact; and

2 WHEREAS, community settings where large groups of people
3 gather, such as college campuses, can increase the risk of
4 the spread of meningococcal disease; and

5 WHEREAS, there are different strains of serogroups of
6 *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C and Y accounting
7 for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

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

11 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection
12 against all three serogroups commonly seen in the
13 United States; and

14 WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y are
15 routinely recommended by the centers for disease control and
16 prevention; and

17 WHEREAS, the centers for disease control and
18 prevention's advisory committee on immunization practices
19 recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young
20 adults between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three against
21 serogroup B meningococcal disease should be made at the
22 individual level with health care providers; and

23 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents,
24 educators and health care providers understand the dangers of
25 meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to

1 prevent disease resulting from that serogroup; and

2 WHEREAS, the recent increase in the incidence of
3 meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the
4 critical role that vaccinations play in helping to prevent
5 this devastating illness;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all state private and public high
8 schools, colleges and universities be requested to provide
9 information to all students and parents about meningococcal
10 disease, explaining the different disease serogroups,
11 symptoms, risks, vaccines and treatments; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that schools be requested to
13 provide a notice of availability, benefits, risks and
14 limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a
15 recommendation from the centers for disease control and
16 prevention's advisory committee on immunization practices,
17 including category A and category B recommendations, with
18 specific information regarding those persons at higher risk
19 for the disease; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each state private and
21 public high school, college and university be requested to
22 recommend that current and entering students receive
23 meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current advisory
24 committee on immunization practices guidelines; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the
2 secretary of public education and the executive director of
3 the New Mexico association of non-public schools. _____

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