

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING ALL STATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES
12 AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ALL STUDENTS AND
13 PARENTS ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENT
14 DISEASE SEROGROUPS, SYMPTOMS, RISKS, VACCINES AND TREATMENTS.

15
16 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection caused by
17 the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*; and

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

21 WHEREAS, there are approximately eight hundred to one
22 thousand five hundred cases of meningococcal disease that occur
23 each year; and

24 WHEREAS, ten to fifteen out of one hundred infected people
25 will die even when treated, while approximately ten or twenty

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1 out of every one hundred people who survive will suffer from
2 serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the
3 nervous system; and

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

7 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to
8 person by the exchange of bacteria through respiratory and
9 throat secretions during close or lengthy contact; and

10 WHEREAS, community settings where large groups of people
11 gather, such as college campuses, can increase the risk of the
12 spread of meningococcal disease; and

13 WHEREAS, there are different strains of serogroups of
14 Neisseria meningitidis, with serogroups B, C and Y accounting
15 for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

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

19 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection
20 against all three serogroups commonly seen in the United
21 States; and

22 WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y are
23 routinely recommended by the centers for disease control and
24 prevention; and

25 WHEREAS, the centers for disease control and prevention's

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1 advisory committee on immunization practices recommends that
2 decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults between the
3 ages of sixteen and twenty-three against serogroup B
4 meningococcal disease should be made at the individual level
5 with health care providers; and

6 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators
7 and health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis
8 B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease
9 resulting from that serogroup; and

10 WHEREAS, the recent increase in the incidence of
11 meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the critical
12 role that vaccinations play in helping to prevent this
13 devastating illness;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all state private and public high
16 schools, colleges and universities be requested to provide
17 information to all students and parents about meningococcal
18 disease, explaining the different disease serogroups, symptoms,
19 risks, vaccines and treatments; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that schools be requested to
21 provide a notice of availability, benefits, risks and
22 limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a
23 recommendation from the centers for disease control and
24 prevention's advisory committee on immunization practices,
25 including category A and category B recommendations, with

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1 specific information regarding those persons at higher risk for
2 the disease; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each state private and public
4 high school, college and university be requested to recommend
5 that current and entering students receive meningococcal
6 vaccines in accordance with current advisory committee on
7 immunization practices guidelines; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the secretary
10 of public education and the executive director of the New
11 Mexico association of non-public schools.