

By: Senator(s) Burton, Frazier, Jackson
(11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 619

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DANGERS OF
2 MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND ENCOURAGING EDUCATION TO BE PROVIDED TO
3 THE PERSONS MOST AT RISK FOR MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.

4 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an infection caused by the
5 bacterium Neisseria meningitidis, and although one in 10 people
6 are carriers of this bacteria with no signs or symptoms of
7 disease, sometimes Neisseria meningitidis bacteria can cause
8 devastating illness; and

9 WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 350 to 550 cases
10 of meningococcal disease occur each year. Even with treatment, 10
11 to 15 infected individuals out of 100 will die, while 11 to 19 out
12 of every 100 people who survive will suffer from serious
13 morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous
14 system; and

15 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to
16 person via the exchange of bacteria through respiratory and throat
17 secretion during close or lengthy contact. Infants, preteens,



18 teens, and young adults have the highest rates of meningococcal
19 disease in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, there are different serogroups of Neisseria
21 meningitidis, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most
22 meningococcal diseases in the United States. Community settings
23 in which large groups of people gather can increase the risk of
24 the spread of meningococcal disease. There have been several
25 recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on college
26 campuses, with some cases resulting in death; and

27 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection
28 against all serogroups of Neisseria meningitidis seen in the
29 United States. Vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is
30 routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and
31 Prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
32 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends
33 that adolescents and young adults age 16 through 23 and persons
34 age 10 years and older in certain groups who are at increased risk
35 for Meningitis B disease receive the vaccine against serogroup B
36 meningococcal disease; and

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

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That



43 the Legislature acknowledges that the recent incidence of
44 meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the critical
45 role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating
46 illness.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Mississippi take all reasonable
48 steps to urge all private and public high schools, colleges and
49 universities in Mississippi to provide information to all students
50 and parents about meningococcal disease and regarding those
51 persons at higher risk for the disease.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each private and public high
53 school, college and university shall educate current and entering
54 students on the recommendation to receive meningococcal vaccines
55 in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization
56 Practices (ACIP) guidelines.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
58 to the Mississippi State Department of Education and the
59 Mississippi State Department of Health, and made available to the
60 Capitol Press Corps.

