

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1181.01 Ashley Athey x2291

HR17-1009

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pabon,

House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1009

101 **CONCERNING THE AWARENESS OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.**

1 WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the
2 bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*; and

3 WHEREAS, Although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria
4 with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis*
5 bacteria can cause illness; and

6 WHEREAS, In the United States, there are approximately 800 to
7 1,500 cases of meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

8 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 infected individuals out of 100 will die even
9 when treated, while about 10 to 20 out of every 100 people who survive
10 will suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to
11 the nervous system; and

12 WHEREAS, Infants under one year of age, as well as young adults
13 between the ages of 16 and 23, are among those most commonly
14 impacted by this disease; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is spread from person to
2 person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory and throat
3 secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

4 WHEREAS, Community settings in which large groups of people
5 gather, like college campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of
6 meningococcal disease; and

7 WHEREAS, There are different strains or serogroups of *Neisseria*
8 *meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most
9 meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

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

13 WHEREAS, There are vaccines that help provide protection
14 against all three serogroups (B, C, and Y) commonly seen in the United
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, Vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is
17 routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and
18 Prevention; and

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

24 WHEREAS, It is critical that students, parents, educators, and
25 health care providers understand the dangers of serogroup B
26 meningococcal disease and are aware that a vaccine is available to
27 prevent disease resulting from this serogroup; now, therefore,

28 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
29 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

30 (1) That the recent incidences of meningococcal disease have
31 served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to
32 prevent this devastating illness;

1 (2) That we, the members of the Colorado House of
2 Representatives, encourage and urge all private and public high schools,
3 colleges, and universities in the state to take reasonable steps to provide
4 information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease,
5 explaining the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks, and
6 treatment;

7 (3) That such information shall also include the notice of
8 availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines
9 receiving a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on
10 Immunization Practices (ACIP), including Category A and Category B
11 recommendations, with specific information as to those persons at higher
12 risk for the disease; and

13 (4) That each private and public high school, college, and
14 university shall recommend that current and entering students receive
15 meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current ACIP guidelines.