

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sub-group Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recommend that incoming college students receive the Meningitis B vaccine.

WHEREAS, student government is dedicated to making sure that students receive the best education possible while preparing students for a successful future; and

WHEREAS, the Meningitis B vaccine has been newly approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sub-group Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP); and

WHEREAS, incoming college freshman students are most likely to be infected with Meningitis due to the close living quarters and social nature of college students; and

WHEREAS, college athletes are frequently together and commonly share items that can serve as a mechanism to transmit disease, promoting a high possibility of becoming infected with this disease; and

WHEREAS, there has been an outbreak of Meningitis at the University of Oregon, infecting six individuals within the last four weeks, with one death; and

WHEREAS, in recent months and years there have been multiple college students who have been infected with Meningitis, attending different universities (San Diego State University, Drexel University, Princeton University, and Providence College) across several states, some resulting in death and lifelong medical conditions not limited to loss of mental function, brain and kidney damage, loss of hearing, and amputation of limbs; and

WHEREAS, there are five strains of Meningitis, serogroup B being the most deadly and just recently becoming vaccine preventable; and

WHEREAS, Meningitis B resembles the flu but escalates much more quickly; and

WHEREAS, one in ten cases of those infected with Meningitis B has resulted in death; and

WHEREAS, health insurers commonly only cover ACIP recommended immunizations; and

WHEREAS, public schools and universities cannot require that which is not recommended; and

WHEREAS, ACIP met in February 2014 but did not make any changes relating to Meningitis due to a shortened meeting and deferred the topic of Meningitis B recommendations until June 2015; and

WHEREAS, government leaders, after the severe outbreak of Meningitis, sent out a public safety announcement strongly urging parents to immunize their children; and

WHEREAS, physicians do not keep in stock that which is not in demand, making access to the life-saving vaccine difficult for parents who desire to vaccinate their children; and

WHEREAS, ACIP recommendation of this vaccine would result in immunity for a majority of college students, allowing incoming students to develop immunity and protect their great, young minds, and future from this known killer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sub-group Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recommend, at their June 2015 meeting, that incoming college students receive the Meningitis B vaccine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Centers for Disease Control Practices sub-group Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE