Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 57

By: Yen, Allen, Anderson, Barrington, Bass, Bice, Bingman, Boggs, Brecheen, Brooks, Brown, Crain, Dahm, David, Dossett, Fields, Ford, Fry, Garrison, Griffin, Halligan, Holt, Jech, Jolley, Justice, Loveless, Marlatt, Matthews, Mazzei, Newberry, Paddack, Pittman, Quinn, Schulz, Sharp, Shaw, Shortey, Silk, Simpson, Smalley, Sparks, Standridge, Stanislawski, Sykes, Thompson, Treat and Wyrick

A Resolution to raise awareness of the importance of vaccinations in preventing meningococcal disease; and to encourage high school and college age students and their parents to educate themselves about the devastating illness.

WHEREAS, in the U.S., there are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

WHEREAS, 10 to 15 percent of infected individuals will die, while 11 to 19 percent of those who live will suffer from serious side effects, including loss of limbs and negative impacts to the nervous system; and

WHEREAS, young adults between the ages of 16 and 21 are some of the most commonly impacted by the disease; and

WHEREAS, there are different strains, or serogroups, of the bacteria causing meningitis, with serogroups B, C and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningitis on college campuses, some resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection against all three serogroups commonly seen in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators and health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available. The CDC recommends that decisions to vaccinate those ages 16 to 23 against serogroup B should be made at the individual level with health care providers; and

WHEREAS, the medical community, the educational system, parents and advocates working together to increase education and awareness of meningococcal disease will protect the health of high school and college students who are at a higher risk of contracting this debilitating and life-altering disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate wishes to raise awareness of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent the devastating effects of meningococcal disease.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages all high school and college age students and their parents to educate themselves about the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks and treatment.

Adopted by the Senate the 18th day of May, 2016.

Eddie Fields
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 18th day of May, 20 16, at 4:32 o'clock P. M.

By: Chris Benge