

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1040

By: Dorman

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution declaring May 9, 2005, to be Meningitis Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a form of meningitis caused by a specific bacterium known as Neisseria meningitidis; and

WHEREAS, meningitis is characterized by inflammation of the membranes around the brain or spinal cord and can begin suddenly or develop gradually; and

WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread by close contact with an infected person; and

WHEREAS, the infection initially causes high fever, severe headache, stiff neck and nausea or vomiting and may resemble the flu; and

WHEREAS, this type of disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and is responsible for some 300 deaths annually, and an estimated 100 to 125 cases of meningococcal disease occur each year on college campuses, resulting in the deaths of five to fifteen students; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in five survivors of the disease suffers long-term permanent disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage or limb amputations; and

WHEREAS, a new study from the United Kingdom shows that college freshmen are at higher risk of contracting meningitis, and the risk increases with certain behaviors including drinking in a bar, smoking, being male and kissing; and

WHEREAS, a new vaccine to prevent meningitis, Menactra, will soon be available and will maintain its effectiveness for up to eight years, versus the previously available vaccine which lasted only three to five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Oklahoma Legislature passed a law requiring postsecondary education institutions to provide detailed information on the risks associated with meningitis and requires that first-time students who reside in on-campus housing be vaccinated, unless a waiver is signed; and

WHEREAS, in January, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that all 12-year-old children get a meningitis vaccination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT May 9, 2005, is hereby declared Meningitis Awareness Day in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives strongly encourages the citizens of this state to educate themselves about the risks of meningitis and the benefits of being vaccinated against the disease.

50-1-7193

MG

04/19/05