

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 50

By: Paddack of the Senate

and

Peters of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution declaring May 9, 2006,
"Meningitis Awareness Day" in the State of Oklahoma;
encouraging citizens to be aware of this disease; and
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, meningitis is characterized by inflammation of the membranes around the brain or spinal cord and can begin suddenly or develop gradually. This disease is spread by close contact with an infected person; and 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. An estimated 100 to 125 cases occur each year on college campuses, resulting in the deaths of five to fifteen students. Approximately one in five survivors of the disease suffers long-term permanent disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage, or limb amputation; and

WHEREAS, a new vaccine to prevent meningitis 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. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all 12-year-old children get a meningitis vaccination; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature declares May 9, 2006, "Meningitis Awareness Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature strongly encourages the citizens of this state to educate themselves about the risks of meningitis, as well as the benefits of being vaccinated against the disease.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Secretary of Health.

50-2-3827

THC

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