

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1076

By: Dorman

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Concurrent Resolution declaring April 29, 2008, to
8 be Meningitis Awareness Day; and encouraging
9 education concerning the disease.

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12 WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a potentially fatal
13 infection caused by a specific bacterium known as Neisseria
14 meningitidis; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, the infection initially resembles the flu, causing high
21 fever, severe headache, stiff neck, confusion, nausea, vomiting, and
22 exhaustion and, in later stages, a rash; and

23 WHEREAS, this type of disease strikes approximately 3,000
24 Americans each year and is responsible for some 300 deaths annually,

1 and an estimated 100 to 125 cases of meningococcal disease occur
2 each year on college campuses, resulting in the deaths of five to
3 fifteen students; and

4 WHEREAS, adolescents and young adults are particularly
5 vulnerable to the disease, accounting for nearly 30% of all cases in
6 the United States, with 1 in 4 infected resulting in death, and of
7 those who survive, up to 20% suffer long-term permanent disabilities
8 such as hearing loss, kidney disease, brain damage, or limb
9 amputations; and

10 WHEREAS, adolescents and young adults are at an increased risk
11 of contracting meningococcal disease due to crowded living
12 conditions, attending new schools and living in new residences with
13 students from geographically diverse areas, sharing beverages,
14 utensils, and items that touch a person's mouth, active and passive
15 smoking, and irregular sleeping patterns; and

16 WHEREAS, a new vaccine to prevent meningitis is available and is
17 likely to last longer than the previously licensed and recommended
18 meningitis vaccine; and

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

24

1 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2 recommends routine meningitis vaccinations for children aged 11 and
3 12 years, that adolescents who were not previously immunized receive
4 the vaccine by high school entry, and that college freshmen living
5 in dormitories be immunized; and

6 WHEREAS, it is believed that up to 83% of meningococcal disease
7 cases among adolescents and young adults are potentially vaccine-
8 preventable.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
11 CONCURRING THEREIN:

12 THAT April 29, 2008, is hereby declared Meningitis Awareness Day
13 in the State of Oklahoma.

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

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18 51-2-11118 SAB 04/14/08

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