

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1035

By: Virgin

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution related to meningococcal disease;
providing that recent incidences of this disease
serve as a reminder of the benefits of vaccination;
emphasizing the importance of disseminating
information about the disease; and expressing the
cooperative effort that will protect adolescents and
young adults from this disease.

WHEREAS, in the United States 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 of
the disease, while 11 to 19 percent of those who survive will suffer
from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the
nervous system; and

WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to person
during close or lengthy contact; and

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

1 WHEREAS, there are different strains or serogroups of the
2 bacteria causing meningitis, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting
3 for most cases of meningococcal disease in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B
5 meningococcal disease on college campuses, with some resulting in
6 death; and

7 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection against
8 all three serogroups, B, C, and Y, commonly seen in the United
9 States; and

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

12 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
13 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that
14 decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults 16 through 23
15 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should be
16 made at the individual level with health care providers; and

17 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators and
18 health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis B and are
19 aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease resulting from
20 this serogroup.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
22 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT the recent incidences of meningococcal disease have served
2 as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to
3 prevent this devastating illness.

4 THAT it is important for all private and public high school and
5 college age students and their parents or guardians to be informed
6 about meningococcal disease and understand the different disease
7 serogroups, symptoms, risks and treatment.

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

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