

House Resolution 767

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, Parrish of the 158th, Price of the 48th, and Abrams of the 89th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the importance of vaccinations to prevent Neisseria meningitidis; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium Neisseria
4 meningitidis; and

5 WHEREAS, although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria with no signs or symptoms
6 of disease, sometimes Neisseria meningitidis bacteria can cause illness; and

7 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are approximately 800 to 1,500 cases of
8 meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

9 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 infected individuals out of 100 will die even when treated, while about
10 10 to 20 out of every 100 people who survive will suffer from serious morbidity, including
11 loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

12 WHEREAS, infants under one year of age, as well as young adults between the ages of 16
13 and 23, are among those most commonly impacted by this disease; and

14 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of the
15 bacteria through respiratory and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

16 WHEREAS, community settings in which large groups of people gather, like college
17 campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of meningococcal disease; and

18 WHEREAS, there are different strains or serogroups of Neisseria meningitides, with
19 serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United States;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease
22 on college campuses, with some cases resulting in death; and

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

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

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

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

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the critical role
36 vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating illness.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Georgia should take all reasonable steps
38 to urge all private and public high schools, colleges, and universities in Georgia to provide
39 information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease, explaining the different
40 disease serogroups, symptoms, risks, and treatment.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such information should also include a notice of
42 availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a
43 recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including
44 Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific information as to those persons
45 at higher risk for the disease.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each private and public high school, college, and
47 university should recommend that current and entering students receive meningococcal
48 vaccines in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
49 guidelines.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
52 public and the press.