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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The meningitis B vaccine has been newly approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; and

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WHEREAS, Incoming college freshman students are most likely to be infected with meningitis due to the close living quarters and social nature of college students; college athletes are frequently together and commonly share items that can serve as a mechanism to transmit disease, promoting a high possibility of becoming infected with this disease; and

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WHEREAS, There has recently been an outbreak of meningitis at the University of Oregon, infecting 6 individuals and resulting in one death; and

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WHEREAS, In recent months and years, there have been multiple college students who have been infected with meningitis at different universities across several states, including San Diego State University, Drexel University, Princeton University, and Providence College, with some resulting in death and lifelong medical conditions not limited to loss of mental function, brain and kidney damage, loss of hearing, and amputation of limbs; and

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1           WHEREAS, There are 5 strains of meningitis, with serogroup  
2 B being the most deadly and just recently becoming vaccine  
3 preventable; and

4           WHEREAS, Meningitis B resembles the flu but escalates much  
5 more quickly; one in ten cases of those infected with  
6 meningitis B has resulted in death; and

7           WHEREAS, Health insurers commonly only cover immunizations  
8 that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
9 Practices; public schools and universities cannot require that  
10 which is not recommended; and

11           WHEREAS, The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
12 met in February of 2014, but did not make any changes relating  
13 to meningitis due to a shortened meeting; the sub-group then  
14 deferred the topic of meningitis B recommendations until June  
15 of 2015; and

16           WHEREAS, After the severe outbreak of meningitis,  
17 government leaders sent out a public safety announcement  
18 strongly urging parents to immunize their children; and

19           WHEREAS, Physicians do not keep in stock that which is not  
20 in demand, making access to the life-saving vaccine difficult  
21 for parents who desire to vaccinate their children; and

1           WHEREAS, A recommendation of this vaccine by the Advisory  
2           Committee on Immunization Practices would result in immunity  
3           for a majority of college students, allowing incoming students  
4           to develop immunity and protect their great, young minds and  
5           their futures from this known killer; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
7           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Centers for  
8           Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on  
9           Immunization Practices to recommend that incoming college  
10          students receive the meningitis B vaccine; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12          delivered to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's  
13          Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.