

1 A RESOLUTION urging private and public colleges and universities in Kentucky to
2 provide information to all students on the benefits and risks of meningococcal
3 immunization.

4 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacterium
5 *Neisseria meningitidis*; and

6 WHEREAS, although one in ten people are carriers of this bacteria with no signs or
7 symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness; and

8 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are approximately 350 to 550 cases of
9 meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

10 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 infected individuals out of 100 will die even when treated,
11 while about 11 to 19 out of every 100 people who survive will suffer from serious
12 morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

13 WHEREAS, infants, preteens, teens, and young adults have the highest rates of
14 meningococcal disease in the United States; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, there are different serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*, with
21 serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United States;
22 and

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

25 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection against all three
26 common serogroups seen in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely recommended

1 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

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

6 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators, and health care providers
7 understand the dangers of meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to
8 prevent disease resulting from this serogroup; and

9 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Public Health requires all students
10 entering a Kentucky public or private high school to receive a vaccination for serogroups
11 A, C, W, and Y at the age of 16 or older; and

12 WHEREAS, the recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served as a
13 reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating
14 illness;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
17 *Kentucky:*

18 ➔Section 1. This honorable body urges private and public colleges and
19 universities in Kentucky to provide information to all students on the benefits and risks of
20 meningococcal immunization in accordance with the latest recommendations of the
21 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and
22 Prevention, including Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific
23 information as to those persons at higher risk for the disease.

24 ➔Section 2. Each private and public college and university in Kentucky is
25 encouraged to consider recommending current and entering students receive
26 meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current ACIP guidelines.

27 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this

- 1 Resolution to Senator Julie Raque Adams for delivery.