

House Resolution 537

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, LaHood of the 175th, Newton of the 123rd, Frye of the 118th, and Schofield of the 60th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 24 as Meningococcal B Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an illness caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria,
4 which can lead to infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis), as well as
5 infections of the blood (septicemia); and

6 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease often occurs without warning, as it spreads from person
7 to person through close contact, such as coughing or kissing, in addition to lengthy contact,
8 such as cohabitation; and

9 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 out of every 100 people infected with meningococcal disease will die;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, about 11 to 19 out of every 100 survivors of meningococcal disease will have
12 long-term disabilities such as loss of limbs, deafness, nervous system problems, and brain
13 damage; and

14 WHEREAS, the risk of meningococcal disease is highest among children younger than 1
15 year of age and adolescents and young adults between the ages of 16 and 23; and

16 WHEREAS, there are 12 serogroups or types of the bacteria that cause meningococcal
17 disease, but serogroups B, C, and Y caused the most meningococcal disease in the United
18 States from 2006-2015 (<1 to ≥65 years of age); and

19 WHEREAS, serogroup B caused approximately one-third of all meningococcal disease cases
20 among all age groups from 2006-2015; and

21 WHEREAS, serogroup B caused 62% of meningococcal disease cases in persons 16-23 years
22 of age from 2015-2017; and

23 WHEREAS, incidence of serogroup B meningococcal disease in college students is low;
24 however, college students aged 18-21 years have higher rates of disease compared to persons
25 not attending college; and

26 WHEREAS, outbreaks of all serogroups of meningococcal disease can be devastating to
27 communities and organizations; and

28 WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends
29 individuals ages ten and above, who are at increased risk for meningococcal disease due to
30 risk of exposure during a meningococcal B disease outbreak, have no spleen or a
31 dysfunctional spleen (including sickle cell disease), have a certain immune system disorder
32 known as persistent terminal complement component deficiency (or those taking the drug,
33 Soliris[®]), or microbiologists who routinely work with isolates of serogroup B *N. meningitidis*
34 receive more than one dose of serogroup B meningococcal vaccine for best protection; and

35 WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that individuals ages 16 to 23, preferably 16-18 years of
36 age, may receive serogroup B meningococcal vaccination; and

37 WHEREAS, vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal diseases; and

38 WHEREAS, as April 24 is observed as National Meningitis B Awareness Day in the United
39 States, residents of Georgia should be encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to
40 ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against serogroup B meningococcal disease,
41 according to current CDC recommendations.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body recognize April 24, 2019, as Meningococcal B Awareness Day at
44 the state capitol in order to increase public awareness of the importance of appropriate
45 patients receiving vaccines against serogroup B meningococcal disease, and urge the
46 promotion of outreach and education efforts concerning vaccination.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 public and the press.