

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 583

To require the provision of information to parents and adults concerning bacterial meningitis and the availability of a vaccination with respect to such disease.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2003

Mrs. HUTCHISON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the provision of information to parents and adults concerning bacterial meningitis and the availability of a vaccination with respect to such disease.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Meningitis Immuniza-
5 tion Awareness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Approximately 3,000 cases of meningococcal
9 disease occur each year in the United States. Ap-

1 proximately 10 to 13 percent of patients with such
2 disease die despite receiving antibiotics early in the
3 disease. Of those individuals who survive, an addi-
4 tional 10 percent have severe after-effects of the dis-
5 ease, including mental retardation, hearing loss, and
6 loss of limbs.

7 (2) There is a vaccine that protects individuals
8 against some types of bacterium *Neisseria*
9 *meningitidis* (also known as meningococcus), an im-
10 portant cause of bacterial meningitis and sepsis in
11 children and young adults. A single dose of the vac-
12 cine is recommended, and vaccination will decrease
13 the risk of the disease caused by *Neisseria*
14 *meningitidis*.

15 (3) Currently, the only group of individuals that
16 is vaccinated against bacterial meningitis is the
17 members of the armed forces. The only other group
18 of individuals that have been encouraged to get the
19 vaccine are those individuals attending college.

20 **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**

21 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
22 retary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with
23 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
24 vention, shall develop and make available to entities de-
25 scribed in subsection (b) information concerning bacterial

1 meningitis and the availability and effectiveness of vac-
2 cinations for individuals 2 years of age or older with re-
3 spect to such disease.

4 (b) ENTITIES.—An entity is described in this sub-
5 section if the entity—

6 (1) is—

7 (A) a child care center or provider that is
8 licensed or certified under an appropriate State
9 law;

10 (B) an elementary or secondary school (as
11 such terms are defined in the Elementary and
12 Secondary School Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
13 et seq.);

14 (C) a college or university;

15 (D) a boarding school or summer camp;

16 (E) a prison or other detention facility; or

17 (F) any other entity that provides for the
18 housing of individuals in a dorm-like setting;

19 and

20 (2) any other entity determined appropriate by
21 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

○