

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3791

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

AUGUST 3, 2006

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SNOWE) 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. Symp-

1 toms are easily mistaken for the flu. Because it is
2 one of the few illnesses that can kill an otherwise
3 healthy person within 24 hours of the first appear-
4 ance of symptoms, there is a significant impact on
5 communities with bacterial meningitis cases or out-
6 breaks.

7 (2) Teens are at particular risk for
8 meningococcal disease. Almost 25 percent adoles-
9 cents develop bacterial meningitis will die and an-
10 other 20 percent will lose arms or legs, suffer brain
11 damage, or become deaf.

12 (3) A new one-shot vaccination that offers pro-
13 tection against most forms of bacterial meningitis
14 may prevent up to 83 percent of cases in the United
15 States.

16 (4) Crowded conditions, such as those existing
17 at sleep away camps or college dormitories, increase
18 the risk of contracting meningococcal disease. Mem-
19 bers of the Armed Forces are routinely vaccinated
20 against bacterial meningitis. The Centers for Dis-
21 ease Control and Prevention, the American Academy
22 of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pe-
23 diatrics, the American Medical Association, and the
24 Society for Adolescent Medicine recommend vaccina-

1 tions for teens and for college students before they
2 return to school.

3 (5) As of July 2006, approximately 30 States
4 have laws requiring that information about
5 meningococcal disease and the availability of an ef-
6 fective vaccine be provided to students and parents
7 of students at the time a student enrolls in college.
8 A few States also require camps, middle schools, or
9 high schools to provide parental notification of the
10 availability of a vaccine against bacterial meningitis.

11 **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**

12 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
13 retary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with
14 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
15 vention, shall develop and make available to entities de-
16 scribed in subsection (b) information concerning bacterial
17 meningitis and the availability and effectiveness of vac-
18 cinations for individuals 2 years of age or older with re-
19 spect to such disease.

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

22 (1) is—

23 (A) a child care center or provider that is
24 licensed or certified under an appropriate State
25 law;

- 1 (B) an elementary or secondary school (as
2 such terms are defined in the Elementary and
3 Secondary School Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
4 et seq.);
- 5 (C) a college or university;
- 6 (D) a boarding school or summer camp;
- 7 (E) a prison or other detention facility; or
- 8 (F) any other entity that provides for the
9 housing of individuals in a dorm-like setting; or
- 10 (2) any other entity determined appropriate by
11 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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