



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1 **Resolution in Support of Meningococcal Disease Awareness**

2 **Whereas:** Meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, or meningococcus;

3 **Whereas:** 1 in 10 people are carriers for these bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria*  
4 *meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness;

5 **Whereas:** Meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory  
6 and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact;

7 **Whereas:** In the U.S., there are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal disease that occur each year;

8 **Whereas:** 10 to 15 percent of infected individuals will die, while 11 to 19 percent of those who live will suffer from  
9 serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system;

10 **Whereas:** Infants under one year of age, as well as young adults between the ages of 16 and 21, are most commonly  
11 impacted by this disease;

12 **Whereas:** There are 12 different strains or serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups A, B, C, W and Y  
13 accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the US;

14 **Whereas:** There have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with  
15 some cases resulting in death;

16 **Whereas:** There are vaccines that help provide protection against all five serogroups (A, B, C, W and Y) commonly seen  
17 in the United States;

18 **Whereas:** Vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and  
19 Prevention (CDC);

20 **Whereas:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
21 recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B  
22 meningococcal disease should be made at the individual level with health care providers;

23 **Whereas:** It is critical that students, parents, educators, and health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis  
24 B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease resulting from this serogroup; and

25 **Whereas:** The recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play  
26 in helping to prevent this devastating illness and to maintain public health.

27 **Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association hereby recognizes the  
28 importance and awareness of meningococcal disease and all five dangerous strains of meningococcal disease, including  
29 meningococcal B.

Sponsors: Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, WI; Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney, MT; Additional co-sponsors: Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog,  
MP; Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti, IL