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HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Al Park

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE  
PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE AND THE MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE  
VACCINE SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, the Immunization Act, which is codified in  
Chapter 24, Article 5 NMSA 1978, requires the department of  
health to promulgate regulations governing the required  
immunizations of children attending school and further requires  
that the required immunizations shall conform to  
recommendations of the advisory committee on immunization  
practices of the United States department of health and human  
services and the American academy of pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, the department of health, in conformance with  
those recommendations, requires children who are not exempted  
to receive the following vaccinations prior to enrolling in

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1 child care, preschool or school: diphtheria, tetanus,  
2 pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, Haemophilus  
3 influenzae type B, hepatitis A, hepatitis B and varicella; and

4 WHEREAS, the advisory committee on immunization practices  
5 has, since 2000, also recommended that children younger than  
6 two years old receive the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, but  
7 the department of health has not yet required that vaccination  
8 prior to enrollment in child care; and

9 WHEREAS, the committee also recommends that children  
10 receive the meningococcal conjugate vaccine at ages eleven  
11 years and twelve years, but the department of health has not  
12 yet required that vaccination prior to enrollment in school;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, invasive pneumococcal disease is a group of life-  
15 threatening infections caused by the bacterium Streptococcus  
16 pneumoniae and includes bacterial meningitis, bacteremia,  
17 sepsis and bacteremic pneumonia; and

18 WHEREAS, pneumococcal disease accounts for more deaths  
19 than any other vaccine-preventable disease, and meningococcal  
20 disease is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in  
21 children ages two years through eighteen years, infecting  
22 between one thousand and two thousand six hundred people of all  
23 ages in the United States each year and killing about ten  
24 percent of those infected; and

25 WHEREAS, vaccines remain the best defense available today

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1 against infectious diseases, including pneumococcal disease and  
2 meningococcal disease;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
5 of health be requested to review its immunization program and  
6 consider whether the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and the  
7 meningococcal conjugate vaccine should be included in the  
8 schedule of required vaccines; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health  
10 report on its review and actions to the interim legislative  
11 health and human services committee by October 2009; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the secretary of health.