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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, World Meningitis Day is being observed on April 24, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Meningitis, which can be caused by a viral or bacterial infection, refers to an inflammation of the membranes, or meninges, surrounding the brain and spinal cord; though cases of viral meningitis are often mild, bacterial meningitis is a serious disease that can rapidly turn fatal; a person may die in a period of only 8 to 24 hours after first contracting the infection; and

WHEREAS, Every year since 2012, 10 to 12 percent of individuals infected with bacterial meningitis have lost their battle with the disease; the rate of bacterial meningitis is higher among adolescents and young adults than it is for most other age groups, and several outbreaks have occurred on college campuses within the last decade; among those who survive meningococcal disease, 20 percent go on to live with severe health problems; and

WHEREAS, Vaccinating adolescents for meningitis saves lives and prevents the health problems and disabilities caused by the bacterium, including epilepsy, paralysis, limb loss, organ damage, and brain damage; inoculating young people also offers economic advantages by decreasing the direct costs and productivity losses associated with the disease; and

WHEREAS, Greater public awareness can help the State of Texas reduce the number of incidents and outbreaks of bacterial meningitis, and World Meningitis Day provides an important opportunity to increase understanding of this debilitating and potentially life-threatening illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 24, 2019, as World Meningitis Day and encourage all Texans to learn more about the prevention of bacterial meningitis through immunization.