

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection—viral meningitis being generally less severe than bacterial meningitis; and

WHEREAS, bacterial meningitis, caused by meningococcus, also referred to as *Neisseria meningitidis*, is one of the most deadly and least understood infections in the United States; and

WHEREAS, meningitis is an inflammation of the brain and spinal cord that can be the result of a bacterial infection; bacterial meningitis is the most serious type of meningitis and is often associated with potentially life-threatening blood infections that affect as many as 3,000 Americans every year; and

WHEREAS, the two most common types of meningococcal disease are meningitis and meningococemia; meningitis is an infection of the fluid that surrounds the spinal cord and the brain, the symptoms of which include high fever, headache, stiff neck, confusion, lethargy, vomiting, and seizures, and meningococemia is an infection of the blood stream, the symptoms of which include a red-brown rash or purple blotches; and

WHEREAS, meningitis can develop rapidly and its symptoms often resemble the flu, making it difficult for doctors to diagnose; even with early and appropriate treatment, the rates of death and serious long-term effects of the disease can be high and bacterial meningitis can be fatal, sometimes within hours; and

WHEREAS, survivors often suffer serious long-term consequences, such as deafness, epilepsy, brain damage and limb loss. While the disease can affect people of all ages, infants, children and adolescents are at an increased risk of infection; and

WHEREAS, thousands of children and adults around the world have died or experienced terrible after-effects from meningitis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize November 16, 2012 as

MENINGITIS AWARENESS DAY

throughout Ohio and encourage all citizens to increase awareness, education, and services for meningitis.

On this 16th day of November, 2012;



John R. Kasich
Governor

