

R025-0708

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MANDATORY TESTING FOR**
20 **METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS**

30 **WHEREAS:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently calculated that MRSA
40 is responsible for 94,000 serious infections and nearly 19,000 deaths per year in
50 the United States, these numbers would make MRSA responsible for more deaths
60 each year than AIDS; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** A nationwide study in 2005 showed that patients with *S. aureus* infection, on
80 average, had three times the length of hospital stay (14.3 vs. 4.5 days), incurred
90 three times the total cost (\$48,824 vs \$14,141), and experienced five times the
100 risk of in-hospital death (11.2% vs 2.3%) than inpatients without this
110 infection; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** MRSA can be detected by swabbing the nostrils of patients and isolating the
130 bacteria found inside, combined with extra sanitary measures for those in contact
140 with infected patients, screening patients admitted to hospitals has been found to
150 be effective in minimizing the spread of MRSA in hospitals in Denmark,
160 Finland, and the Netherlands; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Both CA-MRSA and HA-MRSA are resistant to traditional anti-staphylococcal
180 beta-lactam antibiotics, such as cephalixin; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** On October 15, 2007, 17-year old Ashton Bonds, a student at Staunton River
200 High School in central Virginia died after MRSA infected the areas around his
210 heart, liver, and other muscles and organs; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** A new study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that
230 Baltimore has the highest rate of infection, twice that of the next closest city.

240 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
250 Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation mandating that all hospital
260 patients undergo a screening process for Menicillin Resistant Staphylococcus
270 Aureus.

280 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That any patients who are found to be infected with
290 Menicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus be isolated pending treatment of the
300 disease for the safety of the patients and staff of the hospital.

310 **MANDATES:** Martin O'Malley, Governor
320 Michael Busch, Speaker of the House
330 Kumar Barve, House Majority Leader
340 Anthony O'Donnell, House Minority Leader
350 Edward Kasemeyer, Senate Majority Leader
360 David Brinkley, Senate Minority Leader

SPONSOR: Paul R Schuman,
Co-Delegation Chairperson
University of Maryland, Baltimore County